

IOWA BIRD LIFE

IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION



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The Iowa Ornithologists' Union, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. *Iowa Bird Life* and *IOU News* are quarterly publications of the Union.

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FRONT COVER: Bobolinks may be seen in grasslands in Iowa such as near Crawford Creek Park in Ida County. See Birding Ida and Sac Counties in this issue. Bobolink photographed in Cherokee County and provided courtesy of Don Poggensee.

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Meet an Iowa Birder — Ann Barker

Mary Lou Petersen

Ann Barker, who lives in Davenport, Iowa, is one of Scott County's best birders and has one of the best auditory memories of bird song of anyone I know. Ann did not have much exposure to natural history as a youngster. She was a city girl, born on 30 April 1946 and raised in Des Moines, Iowa. As Ann grew up, her parents, grandparents, and close role models lacked any particular interest in birds or nature-based activities, so she wasn't encouraged in that area. But Ann, a friendly, outgoing, and active girl, did have a keen interest in science.

Ann enrolled in an honors program at the University of Iowa where she received her B.A., both Cum Laude and With Honors, and an M.A. in audiology. She is licensed as an audiologist in Iowa and Illinois, and has practiced audiology for thirty-two years. For the past twenty-two years she has been in private practice and is now a part owner of Audiology Consultants, P.C. Ann's interest in and understanding of sound certainly is a factor in her excellence in birding. Ann's pet peeve in birding is that we do not use sonograms more. Ann says, "Learning to read sonograms is easy and, once accomplished, a person can tell infinitely more about a bird's song or call than any written characterization." She adds that with her eyes closed, she can now do just about as well in Britain as in Iowa identifying spring birds.

Ann and her former husband of 28 years, Bill Barker, shared many birding experiences over the years, and continue to trade birding stories and memories. In 1980, Ann and Bill took a course at



Ann on Ross Silcock's pelagic trip near Pitt Island, New Zealand in November 2001. Photo by Kay A. Niyo.

the Putnam Museum taught by Peter Petersen. They had developed a curiosity about wildlife and the environment and wanted to learn more about local bird species. The course opened their eyes to birding and they were soon rarely without binoculars, a Robbins' guide, and Pete Petersen's *A Field List of the Birds of the Quad City Region*. Their first few years as birders were spent learning the birds and wildlife of Iowa, then surrounding states and areas, and then more distant parts of the United States. Lane bird-finding guides were added to their ever expanding bookshelves devoted to birds. As Ann will tell anyone, the primary appeal of birding for her has been that she is constantly learning. "This goes far beyond ornithology to include botany, entomology, herpetology, psychology, acoustics, geology, geography, and many other branches of science."

Ann does not describe herself as an ardent "lister." She is more interested in learning groups of birds in depth, although her life list stands at 924. During the last ten years or so, she has become increasingly fascinated with international travel in search of birds. Ann has not traveled to the tropics where a lister could check off two or three hundred species in a trip. Ann loves Great Britain, and especially Scotland. She has developed a special interest in European birds. Through travel to different parts of Europe, she has gained a good appreciation for western Palearctic species. She has traveled in the Bering Sea and Siberia, Russia, Arctic Norway and Finland, Alaska, the Falklands and South Georgia, Antarctic waters, and most recently New Zealand with Ross Silcock's group. As far as travel goes, Ann says she is just beginning.

Ann's affinity for far northern species is at the heart of one of her most thrilling experiences while bird watching. As many birders do during a long winter, she, Bill, and a Texas friend traveled to Duluth, Minnesota to look for birds forced down from the northern tundra and taiga. She had learned that there was a gray phase Gyr Falcon in the Duluth/Superior region — the primary reason for their trip there. The bird had been reported to be chasing pigeons. After hours of looking for the Gyr Falcon, they spotted it on the edge of a grain elevator in Superior, Wisconsin. They crossed over into Wisconsin and parked by a field adjacent to the elevator. Walking across the field they kicked up a ring-necked pheasant. As Ann tells it, "The pheasant flushed noisily from only a few feet ahead of us. Before we knew it, the Gyr Falcon was in a full stoop right over our heads. He narrowly missed the ever-so-fortunate pheasant, and we watched in awe as he pulled out of the stoop and flew rapidly away. It all

happened almost in the blinking of an eye, but the sight of that magnificent bird in action so very close to us is something I shall never forget."

Ann has had a rich history of service to birders, birding organizations, and conservation efforts. She is past president of both the Iowa Ornithologists' Union and the Quad City Audubon Society. She was president of the IOU from 1991–1995, and previously she had been IOU secretary from 1986–1990. She was secretary, vice-president, and president of the Quad City Audubon Society, serving from 1985–1990. She is the compiler of the Iowa Spring Bird Count and Spring Bird Count Editor for *Iowa Bird Life*. She has participated in Christmas bird counts, spring bird counts, breeding bird surveys, Breeding Bird Atlas work, frog and toad surveys, and crane counts. She has led field trips with Quad City Audubon. She is currently the Membership Committee chair of the Quad City Audubon. She has assisted with ringing Barn Owls and Hen Harriers in Scotland. She has volunteered at the Visitor's Centre and led guided walks for the Royal Society for the Protection of Bird Reserve on the Isle of Islay in Scotland. She has also volunteered for the Field Centre of the Islay Natural History Museum.

Ann wrote an article about Pete Peterson for *Iowa Bird Life* titled "Meet an Iowa Ornithologist: Peter C. Petersen," Vol. 56, Winter 1986. This article was adapted by Mark Stegmaier and Ann and appeared in *The Iowan*, Winter Issue, 1986.

Ann's interests are not limited to her work, travel, and birding. She is an Elder at First Presbyterian Church in Davenport. She serves on the Church Government and Stewardship committees, and as music librarian. Singing has been an avid lifelong interest for Ann. She sings in the Sanctuary Choir and the 20-voice Chamber Chorale, as well as occasional small groups. The First Presbyterian Church's music program is perhaps the best church music program in the Quad Cities. The choir has sung with the Quad City Symphony on a number of occasions.

Ann has become involved in the community of her "second home," the Isle of Islay in Scotland's Inner Hebrides, which she visits each year. She facilitated a partnership between the Church of Scotland parish church there and her own church in Davenport. In July 2001, she helped organize a journey by a group of twelve members of Davenport's First Presbyterian Church to Islay as a part of that relationship.

Ann has had a long-standing interest in Gordon Setters and has owned several of the breed. After the relatively close loss of two of her setters, she acquired Jazz. I remember this dog as a young, energetic,

and vivacious pup who has grown into a mature, mannerly American Kennel Club champion. Jazz is now a ten-year-old much loved companion.

Ann is, as Bob Cecil put it to me, "one of the most truly classy individuals I have ever met." She is strong and courageous. Ann was diagnosed with breast cancer in January 2002. She e-mailed me in February that she was to have her first chemotherapy session on a Wednesday and hoped to go looking for a reported Iceland Gull on Thursday.

Ann credits Pete Petersen as the most influential person in her development as a birder. She says, "He not only taught me the basics of birding, he answered any and every question I had along the way with infinite patience. He consistently encouraged me to contribute by volunteering my efforts in counts, surveys, and organizational participation. He broadened my interest beyond birds to conservation and the environment. I could not have had a better mentor."

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Review of Junco Forms in Iowa and their Identification

Matthew C. Kenne

In 1976, the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) combined several distinct forms of juncos previously considered to be separate species into one unimaginatively named species: Dark-eyed Junco, Junco hyemalis (American Ornithologists' Union 1976). Observational reports of the different forms decreased because they no longer "counted" to some birders, and because they soon disappeared from many "official" survey forms and checklists. Great numbers of new birders have come

along in the last 20 years believing that, while some of them are kind of funny looking, all juncos are created equal. However, if looked at closely, these "funny looking" ones can be puzzles to work on, livening up cold Iowa winter days. Spending time closely examining juncos now can also prepare you for that possible (even likely) future day when the different forms are once again elevated to full species status.

Slate-colored Junco (*Junco hyemalis hyemalis*) and Cassiar Junco (*Junco hyemalis cismontanus*) are the two forms making up the bulk of the ubiquitous "snowbirds" of Iowa winters. Slate-colored Junco breeds from Alaska through central Canada to Newfoundland and Massachusetts (range information and taxonomy from Pyle 1997). Musgrove (1948) collected a specimen of Cassiar Junco in Polk County on 2 February 1947 for what is now the State Historical Museum. Oregon Junco (*Junco hyemalis shufeldti* or *montanus*) is a regular but rare winter visitor to Iowa (Kent and Dinsmore 1996) that breeds from the interior of British Columbia and southwestern Alberta to northeastern Oregon to Montana. From banding records and the few published dates in *Iowa Bird Life*, the earliest fall arrival date for Oregon Junco in Iowa appears to be 15 October, and the latest spring departure date appears to be 13 April. Philip Dumont collected a specimen of this form on 10 April 1934 in Clay County; it was labeled "shufeldti" (#2204 in the Iowa State University collection). Musgrove (1948) also collected two specimens of this form in Polk County on 16 January 1947. These two specimens were labeled "montanus," a small indication of the fluid nature of the taxonomic treatment these junco forms, and subspecies as a whole, have received from researchers over the years. Pink-sided Junco (*Junco hyemalis mearnsi*), part of the Oregon Junco group, breeds from southeastern Alberta and southwestern Saskatchewan to eastern Idaho to northwestern Wyoming. There are no photos or specimens of this form from Iowa that I'm aware of, but the few published sight records indicate that it is probably of rare to casual occurrence in the state. White-winged Junco (*Junco hyemalis aikeni*), the junco of the Black Hills of South Dakota and nearby mountain ranges, has been reported once in Iowa and will be discussed later. Gray-headed Junco (*Junco hyemalis caniceps*) of the central and southern Rockies is of rare occurrence in Nebraska (Sharpe et al. 2001), and it has also been reported in Minnesota a few times (Janssen 1987). This form has yet to be found in Iowa.

Christmas Bird Count records show that eastern and southern Iowa support some of the highest concentrations of early winter juncos of anywhere in the United States. I compared junco totals of select Iowa counts from the 1970s and 1980s looking for differences in detection rates of Oregon Juncos across the state.

City	Years observed	Birds (No.)	Total Orecons/juncos
Shenandoah	7 of 19	1-2	8 of 8,056
Sioux City	3 of 20	2-5	10 of 6,513
Ames	11 of 19	1-6	30 of 13,034
Des Moines	0	0	0 of 8,676
Iowa City	0	0	0 of 12,386
Cedar Rapids	5 of 19	1-2	7 of 16,622

While there may be geographic differences in the distribution of Oregon Juncos across Iowa, there seems to be more of an observer bias. If observers or compilers in a particular area have an interest in the different types of juncos, they can be found in the record. If not, the advice of Woodward Brown (1959) seems to have been followed: "Considering the lack of unanimity among the experts even when specimens are available, the field identification of the species of the genus *Junco* is difficult, to say the least. It seems best to include these with the Slate-colored Juncos."

Canadian bird banding records show large movements of juncos out of the Prairie Provinces and the eastern slopes of the Rockies into Iowa during the winter (Brewer et al. 2000). These are predominately Slate-colored, but there are also several records of Oregon Juncos being captured and banded in Iowa in the Bird Banding Laboratory (BBL) database (e.g., the 15 October early fall date is from a bird banded and photographed by Pete Petersen). A single White-winged Junco is recorded in the BBL database as having been banded in Iowa in November 1973 by Elizabeth Walters. This is almost certainly one of the two White-winged Juncos reported on the 1973 Shenandoah Christmas Bird Count (Crawford 1974). The BBL date would indicate that the banded bird stayed in the area (possibly at a feeder?) to be counted on 15 December. It is possible that one or both of these birds were the more likely Slate-colored Junco with white wing bars, but I have no other information on this record.

Juncos, as a group, are some of the first birds new birders learn to identify. On an individual level, however, juncos approach gulls in the extent of variation within and between ages and sexes, and in hybridization between groups. At least juncos don't have the gulls' complexities of molt to worry about — the first fall plumage is rather similar to adults and their prebreeding molt is very limited and has no effect on their appearance. One of the advantages in studying juncos is that their almost constant presence under winter feeders, usually in close proximity to windows, makes the close, comfortable, and extended observation of difficult-to-identify birds much easier. Given the similarity of many junco plumages, it is often necessary to use cautious phrases like "appears to be" and "shows features of" when considering subspecific identifications. I am not trying to suggest that all, or even most, of the confusing "brown" juncos can be correctly identified to subspecies in the field. I believe some can, but their identity just cannot be proven with certainty. What we do with the information concerning these "identified" birds is another matter — sight records of these difficult-to-identify birds are probably best enjoyed by the observer as learning experiences and not considered hard data.

The identification of obvious, classic "adult male" or "adult female" juncos is well covered in most standard field guides, however, and reporting out-of-range individuals can add to what we know about the different forms' status and migration in Iowa. Two identification books focusing on sparrows contain detailed descriptions of the variety of juncos and are recommended (Byers, Olsson, and Curson 1995; Rising and Beadle 1996).

For birders wishing to examine the "brown" juncos under their feeder even closer, the following identification information is largely based on a classic work of junco research (Miller 1941), a paper well worth the effort to track down and study.

Slate-colored and Oregon juncos are both prone to large amounts of individual variation. All ages and both sexes can have the usual slaty pigmentation changed or replaced by buff and brown coloration, and adult males in fresh plumage always have some buff tips to the feathers. Feather wear over the winter cleans the gray of the hoods of both Slate-colored and Oregon juncos, making them slightly darker by eliminating buff tips. This wear also affects the brownish coloration of Oregon Juncos, making the sides, and particularly the back, brighter. Fall immatures vary from adults by averaging more brown coloration, but there is no absolute differentiation. This is also true of

females when compared to males — females probably never attain a pure gray back in Slate-colored, but neither do all males (Miller 1941). In describing the head color of the different groups, Miller (1941) used a scale from 1 being dark black to 10 being the lightest pearly blue-gray of Pink-sided Juncos. Slate-colored heads usually fall in the range 6 or 7. Northern *shufeldti* Oregon males are as dark as 4, while southern individuals average about 6, so female or immature Oregons can match the usual Slate-colored in head color. Females tend to run one level paler than males.

The features that separate Slate-colored Juncos from Oregon Juncos are (1) gray coloration in the sides that precludes the appearance of uniform buff, brown, or pinkish sides; (2) the head color that is never sharply set off from the back color; and (3) the ventral hood line dividing the head from the white breast is concave from the head, curving up towards the head and down-turned towards the shoulders. This line curves in the opposite (convex) direction in Oregon Juncos.

The Cassiar Junco, *Junco hyemalis cismontanus*, is the bird that probably accounts for many of the difficult "brown" immature and female juncos in Iowa. This form is a stable hybrid swarm that breeds along the eastern slope of the Canadian Rockies in Alberta, geographically linking northern Slate-colored and western Oregon juncos. Adult males tend to look like Slate-colored Juncos with darker Oregon hoods, and adult females tend to look like Oregon Juncos with a little gray in the sides. The mixing of features from ancestral stock gives them nearly every combination of slate and brown sides, although they are browner or more buffy on the posterior part of the sides than the front part, and the females' sides are seldom entirely gray (some males' sides are). The sides in both sexes are frequently set off from the hood by an obvious color division (unlike Slate-colored), and the hood is separated from a paler back by a sharp hindneck line in 80 to 95% of the birds (Miller 1941). Seeing these features is often impossible without the bird in hand, but birders should be able to identify the occasional bird in the field in Iowa. Most birds, however, will probably fall into that funny-looking, unidentified, "brown" junco category.

The classic Pink-sided Junco has a unique salmon/pinkish cinnamon color to the sides that sets it apart from other Oregon Juncos, but this, too, is variable. The coloration of the sides is broader on this form than on the others, giving the impression of a colored side with a white belly stripe instead of a white belly with a

colored stripe down the side. This pinkish coloration connects the sides across the breast in 8% of the birds, either along the margin of the hood, or actually above it, leaving a gray line below the pinkish color (Miller 1941). The color of the sides becomes less pinkish as the season advances, becoming more yellowish or cinnamon. The head color, palest of all the groups, has a bluish or pearly cast that the others lack.

White wingbars can occur occasionally in Slate-colored Juncos, causing confusion with White-winged Juncos. Sibley (2000) states that one in 200 Slate-colored Juncos has these white tips to the wing coverts, while Miller (1941) found that over one in 40 of the specimens he examined had some pure white areas. A White-winged Junco in Iowa should be paler, larger, have a larger bill, and have obviously more white in the tail than nearby Slate-colored Juncos. Written notes and/or photographs will also be needed to document the bird, anticipating its re-elevation to species status. This need for documentation also applies to any Gray-headed Juncos found in Iowa, and anyone lucky enough to host either of these forms at their winter feeder will likely have a few interested "Juncophiles" stopping by to pay them a visit.

My thanks go to Tom Kent for providing references from early volumes of *Iowa Bird Life*.

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Spring Bird Count — 2001

Ann M. Barker

The 2001 Spring Bird Count was held on 12 May. A total of 21 counties participated (Table 1), up one from 2000 (Barker 2001). Counties new to the count in 2001 were Marshall, Woodbury, and Worth. Des Moines and Linn counties participated after a missed year in 2000. Previously reporting counties that did not participate this year included Decatur, Louisa, Warren, and Webster.



Ann M. Barker

Thirteen counties reported 100 or more species (Table 1). Johnson County led the way with 155, bettering last year's count by 10 species. Boone County tallied 150 for second; Appanoose, 139 for third; Clinton, 135 for fourth; followed closely by Clay with 134 for fifth. Woodbury and Cerro Gordo were sixth and seventh with 131 and 125 species, respectively, and Jackson and Scott tied for eighth at 120 species. Polk and Muscatine were ninth and tenth with 118 and 113

species, respectively. The average number for all counties was 106, up nine from last year.

The strongest geographical coverage was from east-central and central Iowa with seven and five counties represented, respectively. The southeast had three counties participating and two north-central counties participated. There was one county from each of the northwest, northeast, west-central, and south-central regions. No counties from southwest Iowa reported.

The species total was 237, up six from last year and 1999, up 15 from 1998, and up three from 1997. The record total is still held by the 1996 count at 244. The average number of species per county was a respectable 106. A total of 136 birders participated, up sharply from last year. Johnson County had the most observers with 16. Polk County had 14, and Appanoose and Boone counties each had 13.

Species found in all 21 counties were Mourning Dove, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Eastern Kingbird, Blue Jay, American Crow, Barn Swallow, House Wren, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Eurasian Starling, Chipping Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Indigo Bunting, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Baltimore Oriole, and House Sparrow. Species found in all but one county included Canada Goose, Red-tailed Hawk, Ring-necked Pheasant, Killdeer, Rock Dove, Great Crested Flycatcher, Brown Thrasher, Common Yellowthroat, Song Sparrow, and American Goldfinch. Species found in 19 of 21 counties included Turkey Vulture, Chimney Swift, Red-headed Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Tennessee Warbler, Yellow Warbler, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Eastern Meadowlark, and House Finch.

A total of 44,057 individuals of the 237 species were found, which is somewhat decreased from previous counts. This averages almost 3,000 individuals per county. Only six species had individual counts over 1,000. These included Red-winged Blackbird, 5,559; Common Grackle, 2,336; Eurasian Starling, 1,709; American Robin, 1,632; Canada Goose, 1,622; and House Sparrow, 1,466.

Coverage for the state was about equal to last year, which is still decreased from 1999. Although more individual counters participated, the number of counties still represents less than one-quarter of the state. To reliably quantify the relative numbers and regional locations of spring birds in Iowa, much wider coverage is necessary.

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Table 1. Count statistics for the Iowa Spring Bird Counts — 2001

County	Number of			Hours				Miles		
	Species	Obs.	Parties	Foot	Car	Feeder	Owling	Foot	Car	Owling
Allamakee	110	4	1	3.5	9.5	1	1	2	101	5
Appanoose	139	13	5	10	21	1	0.25	10	307	0
Benton	55	7	4	4	6	5			60	
Boone	150	13	3	25	9	2	1	12	166	1
Cerro Gordo	125	6	5	9	15	4.5		11	200	
Clay	134	3	1	5	5.75	0	0	2	151	
Clinton	135	8	3	16	11		5.5	9	206	16
Dallas	84	10	2	6	7.25	0	0.5	6	183	3
Des Moines	41	2	1	1.5	0.5					
Jackson	120	5	3	5	15	0	0	7	173	0
Jefferson	98	7	3	11	4		0.5	4	55	1
Johnson	155	16	11	44.5	20	0.5	2	33.5	311	30
Linn	108	4	2	5	15			4	180	
Marshall	78	2	1	5	3.5	0	0	2	47	0
Muscatine	113	5	2	2.5	19.5		0	5	294	0
Polk	118	14	3	8.25	6.75	1	0	7.25	157	0
Scott	120	6	4	10	15.5	0.5	0	9	204	0
Story	70	6	3	2	3.5			1	15	
Washington	82	1	1	3	10	0.25	0.5			
Woodbury	131	3	1	12	4	0	2	6	105	20
Worth	56	1	1		4				120	
TOTALS	237	136	60	188.25	205.75	15.75	13.75	130.75	3035	76
AVERAGE	106	6.47	2.86	8.96	9.8	0.75	0.65	6.23	144.52	3.62

Table 2a. Iowa Spring Bird Count Data, 2002

	Pi		Ho		Ea		We		Cl		Am		Dr		Am		Le		Gr		Sn		Li		Ca		Gr		Bl		Tu		Gr	
	Co	Bi	Gr	Gr	Gr	Gr	Gr	Gr	Gr	Gr	Wh	Pw	Co	Cr	Bl	Wh	Pw	Bi	He	Bl	Eg	Eg	He	Bl	Eg	He	He	NH	Cr	Vu	WF	Go		
Allamakee		5									50		2		33	30		1		33	30	1			1	7					17			
Appanoose	1	3	2								45		1		25	44		1		25	44		3	16		1				1	54			
Benton															13	3			13	3	3										5			
Boone		4									15		13		3	3		4		3	3			2		1				15				
Cerro Gordo	11										114		50																		3			
Clay	1	1						1		1	639		33		25	2			25	2	2									13	52			
Clinton		7									13		15		22	13			22	13	13				5	2								
Dallas		2											1		1															15				
Des Moines																																		
Jackson		2									1		43		25	3			25	3	3					2				37				
Jefferson		1																								2				38				
Johnson		2									11		62		25				25							3				27				
Linn		1													3			1	3						5					27				
Marshall															5															2				
Muscatine		1											3		9	4				9	4			2		2				21				
Polk		3		2									2		7	1				7	1				2					25				
Scott													4		16	4				16	4				2					11				
Story															1															1				
Washington															4	2				4	2									13				
Woodbury		12									90		12		6					6					1					25		1		
Worth					3						4		26			5					5									2				
TOTALS	13	44	2	2	4	1	982	267	8	1	223	114	1	4	21	46	3	351	53															
No. Counties	3	13	1	1	2	1	10	14	5	1	17	12	1	2	4	13	2	19	2															

Table 2b. Iowa Spring Bird Count Data, 2001

	Sn Go	Ca Go	Tr Sw	Wo Du	Ga	Am Wi	Ma	Bl Wi	No Sh	Gr Wi	Ri Ne	Le Sc	Wh Wi	Co Go	Ho Me	Co Me	Re Br	Ru Du	
Allamakee		34		26	11		35	26	9		3	3			11				
Appanoose	1	105		13	15	2	21	68	7						4			3	
Benton		88					3												
Boone	1			27	17		10	29	5			2						1	
Cerro Gordo		223	1	21	10		175	102			2	10							
Clay	2	181		10	30		71	86	23	4	4	11			1	1		28	
Clinton		44	1	10	6		22	12	1									2	
Dallas		90		4											4				
Des Moines		2																	
Jackson		72		3	4		22	7											
Jefferson		34		1															
Johnson	1	99		46	10	2	52	37	12		6	16	1	1	3		4	4	
Linn		63		7			31												
Marshall		24		6			2								1				
Muscatine		63		8			39		1										
Polk	1	69		6		1	16	21	11			1						6	
Scott		97		17			49	15	2			1							
Story		24				3	5	12	8		2								
Washington		50		3	1		9	4											
Woodbury	1	150		6	1		15	24	6		5	25						52	
Worth		110		2			13	10	8	4									
TOTALS	7	1622	2	216	105	8	590	453	93	8	3	17	18	71	1	24	1	4	96
No. Counties	6	20	2	18	10	4	18	14	12	2	1	3	5	9	1	6	1	1	7

Table 2c. Iowa Spring Bird Count Data, 2001

	Os	Ba Ea	No Ha	Sh Ha	Co Ha	Acc Sp	Re Sh Ha	Br Wi Ha	Sw Ha	Re Ta Ha	Am Ke	Me	Pe Fa	Gr Pa	Ri Ne Ph	Ru Gr	Wi Tu	No Bo	Vi Ra	So
Allamakee		29								8	2				3	3	8			1
Appanoose		4			1					7	3				18		25	5		3
Benton		1								1	2				1					
Boone	1		2		2					5	2		1		17		5		1	3
Cerro Gordo					1	1			1	7	5			4	22					5
Clay							1			4	3				19					2
Clinton		2	1	1	1					6	5	2		3	4		9			8
Dallas										2	2				30					
Des Moines										1					1		7			
Jackson	1	3	1		1					14	1				2		7			2
Jefferson										6	2				6		2			2
Johnson	2									11	4				36		14	1		2
Linn	1	1			1					10	3				8		12			
Marshall										1					4					
Muscatine										5	3				2		2	1		
Polk										6					4					1
Scott										6	7				5		1	2		
Story										1	3				1					1
Washington										3	3				7			1		
Woodbury	1			1	1					34	1				11		24			
Worth																				
TOTALS	6	40	4	2	9	1	1	3	2	138	51	2	1	7	201	3	116	10	1	30
No. Counties	5	6	3	2	8	1	1	3	2	20	17	1	1	2	20	1	12	5	1	11

Table 2d. Iowa Spring Bird Count Data, 2001

	Co		Am		Sa		Be		Am		Se		Pi		Ki	Gr		Le	So	Wi	Sp		Up	Hu	Ru	Sa	Se	We	Le
	Mo	Co	Am	Co	Sa	Cr	Pi	Be	Pi	Go	Pi	Pi	Pi	Ye		Ye	Sa				Sa	Sa							
Allamakee		12													23	6	5	2	6										
Appanoose		48													30	1	11		12										
Benton															5														
Boone		12						1		30	6				12	10	28	1	4										
Cerro Gordo		76													20		7												
Clay		21								36	2				23	3	94	1	3										
Clinton	3	3													24		40	1	3										
Dallas		4													2		8												
Des Moines																													
Jackson		5													16														
Jefferson		3													9		3	1	5										
Johnson		22													35		7	4	17										
Linn															7	2			6										
Marshall															4			1	1										
Muscatine		12													22	1		1	2										
Polk		8													5		5	2	3										
Scott															26		4	6	13	2									
Story		30													3		1		1										
Washington		2													3		11		7										
Woodbury		34													2		1		14										
Worth		13													6														
TOTALS	3	305	14	1	66	85	2	315	2	66	85	2	315	2	20	6	14	21	4	97	2	20	2	2	91	7	224		
No. Counties	1	16	4	1	2	4	1	20	1	20	4	1	20	1	14	1	14	11	1	14	1	3	1	1	7	1	11		

Table 2f. Iowa Spring Bird Count Data, 2001

	Bl	Ye	Ea	Gr	Ba	Co	Wh	Ch	Ru	Re	Re	Ye	Do	Ha	No	Pi	Ol	Ea	Wi
	Bi	Bi	Sc	Ho	Ow	Ni	Po	Sw	Th	He	Be	Be	Wo	Wo	Fi	Wo	Si	Pe	Fi
	Cu	Cu	Ow	Ow	Ow	Ow	Wi	Sw	Hu	Wo	Ki	Wo	Wo	Wo	Fi	Wo	Fi	Wo	Fi
Allamakee						2	9	33	1	5	3	3	1		4	2			
Appanoose		2				4	6	35	5	2	19	8	3	1	9	1		10	2
Benton								10	5	4	12	5	5	2	3				
Boone				2		3		30	4	3	11	10	7	3	6	2		2	
Cerro Gordo				2				24	4	5	5	7	25	12	13				1
Clay								29		1	5	2	5	1	3				1
Clinton	1				2		1	12		5	13	17	4	4	4			1	1
Dallas						1		6			5	6	1		4			1	
Des Moines					1		10				1	5			1	2			
Jackson	3	2			1	3		36	5	2	6	18	1	3	5	3	1	2	
Jefferson					4	7		90	1		6	10	8	1	3			4	
Johnson	1	1		3	15	4	5	24	9	4	23	33	1	21	3	27		6	2
Linn					1	1		3	2	3	4	11		3	1	3		2	
Marshall								3	1	2	1	1	2	2	3				
Muscatine				1				2	2	1	20	9	3	1	6	1		8	
Polk								16	6		7	15	11	4	5			3	
Scott	1			3	6			25	2	4	19	18	1	19	1	9		3	1
Story								21		1		4	2		1				
Washington			1			2		17		4	13	2	2		5				
Woodbury							9	103		2	9	7	2	6	19		2		3
Worth										2	3	2			3				
TOTALS	3	7	2	11	39	30	40	519	47	50	182	193	8	131	136	11	3	42	11
No. Counties	1	5	2	5	10	9	6	19	13	17	19	21	5	19	12	21	6	2	11
																			7

Table 2g. Iowa Spring Bird Count Data, 2001

	Le	Em- pid	Ea Ph	Gr Cr	We Ki	Ea Ki	Lo Sh	Be Vi	Bl He	Ye Th	Wa Vi	Ph Vi	Re Ey	Bl Ja	Am Cr	Ho La	Pu Ma	Tr Sw	No RW	Ban Sw
Allamakee			5	2		6				3	4		3	9	18	1	26	17	20	
Appanoose			13	12		50		4		3	24	5	9	46	59	5	30	49	2	1
Benton			1			6								13	33				5	
Boone	1		8	7		16	1		2	4	19	3	8	18	15	3	4	29	100	12
Cerro Gordo	6	2	1	4		22		1	3	1	8	4	6	52	123	3	21	68	2	
Clay	6	9	2	2		13		1	2	2	3		1	21	26	4	3	165	3	33
Clinton	5		12	11		12			2	6	15		19	23	31	3		36	55	16
Dallas			1	9		12		1		1				8	12	1	8	26	3	5
Des Moines			1	2		1							1	3	25					
Jackson	4	1	5	12		12			1	5	45		6	51	147	2	17	19	77	12
Jefferson	1		2	7		14		4	1	7	18	1	28	24	21		1	8	4	
Johnson	13		9	26		46		1		11	31		38	80	93	5	17	137	10	1
Linn	4		2	9		4			2	5	13		14	20	53			12	7	
Marshall	1			3		6	2	1		4			6	6	9			1	6	
Muscatine	3		6	17		13				1	16		13	28	41	6	22	54	26	
Polk	6		3	23		31	1		3	11	28		31	52	23		19	16	6	1
Scott	2		14	6		17		1		5	28	2	53	67	120	11		63	25	150
Story	1			3							5		1	6	14		10	7		
Washington	1		5	4		22							6	9	25	1		3	5	
Woodbury	6		2	7		9				2	18		11	38	21	6	7	36	34	52
Worth			2	3		10			1		8			2	16			6		
TOTALS	60	12	94	169	15	369	4	14	17	71	283	15	254	576	925	51	185	752	390	283
No. Counties	15	3	19	20	2	21	3	8	9	16	16	5	18	21	21	13	13	19	18	10

Table 2h. Iowa Spring Bird Count Data, 2001

	Cl Sw	Bar Sw	Swal-low sp	Bl Ca Ch	Tu Ti	Re Br Nu	Wh Br Nu	Ca Wr	Ho Wr	Wi Wr	Se Wr	Ma Wr	Ru Cr Ki	Bl Gr Gn	Ea Bl	Ve	Gr Ch Th	Sw Th	Wo Th	Am Th	Ro
Allamakee	26	19		3	2		4		4	1				2	6				2	47	
Appanoose	172	44		5	17		4		25		3	1	1	4	39		8	9	5	127	
Benton		7		2			5		6						9					36	
Boone	57	51		15	4		9		30		2	7	2	12	11	1		3		45	
Cerro Cordo	15	38		39		1	7		17		13	4		3	4		2	3	2	127	
Clay	31	48	180	9			2		15		2	8	2	2	9			2	3	98	
Clinton	6	52		12	7		13	2	41				1	3	13	6	3	8	9	154	
Dallas	39	22		16	2		8		14						8		2		24		
Des Moines		2			2				1						1				5	15	
Jackson	60	12		15	9		14	4	27		1			14	12		2	3	8	107	
Jefferson		12		10	6		8	1	16		5	2		1	8	2	3	2	1	35	
Johnson	24	63		61	22		18	1	120				1	19	27	5	2	14	7	188	
Linn	97	20		17	7		7		28					6	10		2	7	5	45	
Marshall		8		4			2		9						2	1		7			
Muscatine	1	44		9	16		5	2	18		1			2	8	1		4	3	69	
Polk	188	29		22	2		25		64		3		1	12	6			3	5	56	
Scott	8	74		42	22		14	2	55				1		17		1	11	7	192	
Story		5		8			4		12		2				1				40		
Washington	28	40		7	1		4		9						8			3	96		
Woodbury	6	62		27			9		53					6	13			12	3	90	
Worth		7							18						2					34	
TOTALS	758	659	180	323	123	1	162	12	582	1	32	22	9	86	214	16	23	86	67	1632	
No. Counties	15	21	1	19	14	1	19	6	21	1	9	5	7	13	21	6	8	15	15	21	

Table 2i. Iowa Spring Bird Count Data, 2001

Gr Ca	No Mo	Br Th	Eu St	Am Pi	Ce Wa	Bl		Te Wa	Or Cr	Na Wa	No Pa	Ye Wa	Ch		Ca Ma	Ye Ru	BT Gr	Bi Wa	Ye Th	
						Wi Wa	Wi Wa						Si Wa	Ma Wa						
9		4	37			1		2				7								
61	1	25	39					67		5	1	11	3	5	8	1	2			
3		6	21																	
29		11	24		9	3	3	70	3	5	3	14	2		4					
28		9	109				2	24	2	12	1	13	2	6	1	11	5	4		
25		15	88				1	16	3	2	2	29	5	3	6	2				
50		9	180		2	5	2	45		11	1	15	9	13	10	39	9	2	3	
8		4	35		14			13		2		3		1	8	1				
9		18			12			12												
33		10	95			4	1	12				10	4	5	3	14		1		
26		5	121					85		4	3	3	8	2	1	2		1		
170		20	145	1	4	2	6	119	4	18	8	33	20	12	1	16	10	8	2	
31		6	184				2	36		6		5	2	1	6	2	1			
7		8	9				3	17	1	4	4	4	2	4		3	2	1		
27		24	119		15		1	73		9	4	8		1	1	6				
48		7	193		7		3	93	1	3	2	15	2	1	2				1	
76		25	179			2	2	160		12	2	32	17	6	5	37	12	2	2	
5		3	16			1	1	10		10		1			2					
25		7	52					16		2		1	1		1					
42	1	37	43			2	2	30	28	3	3	33	5	6	15					
7		1	2									15	2							
719	2	236	1709	1	63	17	29	900	42	108	30	252	84	65	22	175	50	25	10	
No. Counties	21	2	20	21	1	7	6	13	19	7	16	11	19	15	13	7	17	10	11	5

Table 2k. Iowa Spring Bird Count Data, 2001

	Ch		Cl		Fi		Ve		La		Sa		Gr		He		Le		So		Li		Sw		Wh		Da		Wh		No		Ro	
	Sp	Gr	Co	Sp	Sp	Sp	Sp	Sp	Sp	Sp	Sp	Sp	Sp	Sp	Sp	Sp	Sp	Sp	Sp	Sp	Sp	Sp	Sp	Sp	Sp	Sp	Sp	Sp	Sp	Ca	Br	Bl	Gr	
Allamakee	19				3	2													13						9				10		7			
Appanoose	37				12				1	3	13				3				20			1			1				68	22				
Benton	5																												8	11				
Boone	14				9	2			1	4	2								15			1						3	1	18	17			
Cerro Gordo	34				6	4				9	2								25			2	14		4		2		21	30				
Clay	21				2	1				13									22			2	13		12		21		1	26				
Clinton	33				1	5	2			2	1								5				2		2		1		59	21				
Dallas	4				2														3								1		20	17				
Des Moines	2																		1										23					
Jackson	18				12					5	5								35				2		2		2		35	25				
Jefferson	14				15						1				2				14									1	27	21				
Johnson	44				2	15				8	7	2							25				1		4			3	167	65				
Linn	20				5						2	3							19						4			4	48	17				
Marshall	5					4													4			2					4	2	10	6				
Muscatine	35				13	1				1	1	7							15						1				39	25		1		
Polk	27				2	1				1		3							27						2				33	49				
Scott	60				11	2					24	1							49			1							96	28				
Story	3									1		2							8										8					
Washington	3				4	1				3	1								4									2	13	13				
Woodbury	60				9	7				12	8	11							2	16		3	1		8	11			12	28				
Worth	2																		15								2		1	3				
TOTALS	460	13	125	27	28	79	53	5	2	335	12	35	53	43	2	15	717	431	1															
No. Counties	21	6	16	11	8	12	13	2	1	20	7	8	12	8	1	8	21	19	1															

Table 21. Iowa Spring Bird Count Data, 2001

	In	Pa	Di	Bo	Re	Ea	We	M'lark	Ye	Gr	Br	Or	Ba	Ho	Pi	Am	Ho
	Bu	Bu			Wi	Me	Me	sp	He	Ta	He	Co	Or	Fi	Si	Go	Sp
Allamakee	9			7	85	1		1	11	27	28	4	19	13		16	27
Appanoose	45		17	35	250	42	4	7		79	49	2	55	4		70	54
Benton	4				98	2				60	11		33	3	4	13	24
Boone	35			40	450	4	12		22	50	50	1	56	3	1	48	26
Cerro Gordo	33			48	304	5	4		37	301	24	2	27	28		99	68
Clay	3			49	686		15		123	285	10		21	5		17	28
Clinton	21				641	9	1		52	180	32	2	92	4		62	107
Dallas	7			12	78	5	1		2	31	9		7	3		19	11
Des Moines	5		2		21	16				15	7		10				16
Jackson	40			32	208	16		4		105	19		38	15		55	107
Jefferson	15		5	2	220	26				67	10	3	26	2		17	41
Johnson	84		5	24	623	12	3		1	100	88	6	106	7		110	169
Linn	35		6	3	272	10				45	17		52	4		24	127
Marshall	14	1		7	44		4			14	3		4	2		3	12
Muscatine	43		6	11	105	4				69	19	1	58	1		67	94
Polk	55		10	4	130	9	1		10	141	2	40	5	74		63	108
Scott	44		3	18	430	24	2		144		100	1	58	20		33	201
Story	12		1	1	80	1	2			45	3		7	2		9	13
Washington	9		9	3	240	2		15		56	12		17	3		17	62
Woodbury	30			21	99	2	18		150	202	4	28	16	20		68	16
Worth	4			4	495	1			18	320	42	1	7			23	155
TOTALS	547	1	64	321	5559	191	67	27	426	2336	38	646	44	787	147	5	833
No. Counties	21	1	10	18	21	19	12	4	10	21	6	21	12	21	19	2	20

Table 3. Species reported on only one or two Iowa Spring Bird Counts — 2001

Species	County (Number)
Horned Grebe	Appanoose (2)
Eared Grebe	Polk (2)
Western Grebe	Cerro Gordo (1), Worth (3)
Clark's Grebe	Clay (1)
Least Bittern	Allamakee (1)
Snowy Egret	Allamakee (1)
Little Blue Heron	Appanoose (3), Linn (1)
Black-crowned Night-heron	Appanoose (1), Clinton (2)
Greater White-fronted Goose	Clay (52), Woodbury (1)
Trumpeter Swan	Cerro Gordo (1), Clinton (1)
Green-winged Teal	Clay (4), Worth (4)
Canvasback	Allamakee (3)
White-winged Scoter	Johnson (1)
Common Goldeneye	Johnson (1)
Common Merganser	Clay (1)
Red-breasted Merganser	Linn (4)
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Clinton (1), Woodbury (1)
Red-shouldered Hawk	Clay (1)
Swainson's Hawk	Clay (1), Woodbury (1)
Merlin	Clinton (2)
Peregrine Falcon	Boone (1)
Gray Partridge	Cerro Gordo (4), Clinton (3)
Ruffed Grouse	Allamakee (3)
Virginia Rail	Boone (1)
Common Moorhen	Clinton (3)
Black-bellied Plover	Boone (1)
American Golden-plover	Boone (30), Clay (36)
Piping Plover	Woodbury (2)
Willet	Boone (4)
Upland Sandpiper	Scott (2)
Ruddy Turnstone	Johnson (2)
Sanderling	Allamakee (2)
Western Sandpiper	Woodbury (7)
White-rumped Sandpiper	Linn (1), Woodbury (12)
Baird's Sandpiper	Boone (1), Woodbury (1)

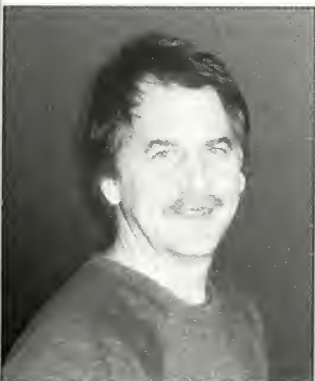
Species	County (Number)
Stilt Sandpiper	Scott (1)
Common Snipe	Cerro Gordo (1), Muscatine (8)
Wilson's Phalarope	Appanoose (3), Boone (4)
Red-necked Phalarope	Johnson (2)
Franklin's Gull	Clay (425), Johnson (1)
Herring Gull	Allamakee (1), Jackson (22)
Black-billed Cuckoo	Jackson (3)
Eastern Screech-owl	Johnson (1), Washington (1)
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Jackson (1), Woodbury (2)
Western Kingbird	Polk (6), Woodbury (9)
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Cerro Gordo (1)
Winter Wren	Allamakee (1)
Northern Mockingbird	Appanoose (1), Woodbury (1)
American Pipit	Johnson (1)
Worm-eating Warbler	Boone (3), Clinton (1)
Mourning Warbler	Cerro Gordo (1), Dallas (1)
Canada Warbler	Johnson (2)
Summer Tanager	Muscatine (1)
Henslow's Sparrow	Appanoose (3), Jefferson (2)
Leconte's Sparrow	Woodbury (2)
Dark-eyed Junco	Jackson (2)
Blue Grosbeak	Muscatine (1)
Painted Bunting	Marshall (1)
Pine Siskin	Benton (4), Boone (1)

Table 4. Compilers for Iowa Spring Bird Counts — 2001

County	Compiler	Location
Allamakee	Ric Zarwell	Lansing
Appanoose	Dan Tiemeier	Centerville
Benton	Ann Harrison	Vinton
Boone	Karl Jungbluth	Boone
Cerro Gordo	Carolyn Fischer	Mason City
Clay	Lee Schoenewe	Spencer
Clinton	Carol Rogers	Davenport
Dallas	Maridel Jackson	Ankeny
Des Moines	Bill Ohde	Columbus Junction
Jackson	Ulf Konig	Maquoketa
Jefferson	Dave Killman	Fairfield
Johnson	Christopher Caster	Coralville
Linn	Dale Fye	Cedar Rapids
Marshall	Mark Proescholdt	Liscomb
Muscatine	Mary Lou Petersen	Bettendorf
Polk	Pam and Reid Allen	West Des Moines
Scott	Ann Barker	Davenport
Story	Hank Zaletel	Nevada
Washington	Edwin Lins	Washington
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Field Reports — Fall 2001

Paul Hertzel



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WEATHER

The 2001 fall season was extremely mild, feeling more like a 4-month extension of summer. August continued the warm, dry weather that persisted through July, with above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation. The dry conditions were most severe in the southwest, where some areas experienced the driest August in 104 years of record-keeping. In September, much needed rains came at the end of the first week, and intermittently through the rest of the month. However, the temperatures remained above normal with warm, balmy days through the month and into the first few days of October. Sioux City reported a 90° reading on the 2nd of October.

Then, for about two weeks in October, more fall-like conditions prevailed, bringing a cool relief to the heat. The season's first few hard freezes of the season occurred, although there was no snow accompaniment. In fact, there was little weather activity of any kind in October, and the fall colors persisted one or perhaps two weeks later than usual. The cool temperatures resulted in a slightly below-normal average for October, but later in the month, the warm weather returned beginning a very unusual, mild weather pattern that affected the entire region throughout the remainder of the fall and into the winter. Many states, including Iowa, experienced their warmest November on record. Temperatures in the low 70s were recorded even into the last half of the month. Overnight temperatures below freezing were rare until the last few days of the month. Although the season's first real snowstorm in the north occurred in the last week of November, dumping record amounts of snow on parts of western Minnesota, it missed all but the northwest corner of Iowa. The season ended quietly with virtually no snow having been recorded in the state, no lake ice, and a few shorebirds still poking in the mud in the eastern and central parts of the state.

GENERAL TRENDS

A relatively quiet, extended migration reflected the mild, calm, and dry fall. One contributor characterized it "mostly lackluster." In general, waterfowl were scarce with no large movements until the late-November snows to the north finally gave them a push. Some species like Canvasbacks and Common Mergansers were virtually absent. However, continuing recent trends, there were record numbers of reports of Ross's Geese and Sabine's Gulls, including several very early individuals of both species. Shorebirds found suitable habitat especially in the central, east, and south where September rains kept things wet. A band of White-rumped Sandpipers lingered at Coralville Reservoir into October enabling many observers to enjoy this rare fall event. With the mild conditions, ten species of shorebirds stayed into November. Both species of yellow-legs delayed to record-late dates at Big Creek in Polk County, and Killdeer, Black-bellied Plover, and Common Snipe accompanied them to the last days of November. Second latest dates were recorded for Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron, Virginia Rail, Black-bellied Plover, Common Tern, and Purple Martin.

Hawkwatchers at Grammer Grove in Marshall County and Hitchcock Nature Area in Pottawattamie County made the most of the mild weather and easily broke their previous records for coverage hours. Both locations tallied record numbers of Golden Eagles and Turkey Vultures, and each set new records of other species as well. Some days showed remarkable consistencies in bird movement for such distant locations; for instance, the 23rd of September was a peak day for accipiter movement at both sites. On that same day, the season's only two Mississippi Kites were seen, one in Pottawattamie County and the other in Polk County.

Several birders remarked how moderate the passerine migration was, though a few found exception to that description in the warbler movements. Magnolia and Blackburnian warblers arrived unusually early, and Black-throated Blue Warblers were found six times. Louisiana Waterthrush and Worm-eating Warblers were found record late. In Pocahontas County, a Worm-eating Warbler was netted and banded on 19 October, more than a month beyond the previous latest date for this species. A couple of other species setting records were Lincoln's and White-throated sparrows, both arriving record early.

UNUSUAL SPECIES

Three casual shorebirds were reported this season — two Red Knots and one Red Phalarope. The mysterious Spirit Lake Black-headed Gull, still classified casual, appeared in October and stayed 42 days. Also reported were five accidental species — Ferruginous Hawk, Gyrfalcon, Eurasian Collared Dove, White-winged Dove, and Three-toed Woodpecker.

SPECIES DATA

All CAPS = Casual or Accidental species
(* = documented)

Red-throated Loon: One at Big Creek L., Polk Co. on 15 Nov stayed at least until 23 Nov (AB*, DT*, ET*, JJD*, MCD*, MP*, PHA*, RIA*, found by E. and E. Armstrong).

Common Loon: The first on 6 Aug in Cerro Gordo Co. (CF) may have spent the summer in the state. High counts: 31 at Saylorville Res. (BE), 26 on 8 Nov in Marion Co. (AB), and 24 on 31 Oct (RC).

Pied-billed Grebe: High count: 413 on 21 Sep in Polk Co. (SJD).

Horned Grebe: First three: 1 on 2 Sep in Polk Co. (BE) and 2 on 10 Sep in Story Co. (WO, HZ) [early record]. Last: 1 on 19 Nov in Marion Co. (AB).

Red-necked Grebe: From 1–6 at Cheever L., Emmet Co. until 20 Oct (LAS, PHA, RIA).

Eared Grebe: All: 1 on 12 Sep in Johnson Co. (CE), 1 on 28 Oct in Dickinson Co. (LAS), and the last on 17 Nov, Emmet Co. (LAS).

Western Grebe: All reports were of single birds on Saylorville Res. during an eleven-day period: 31 Oct (AB), 4 Nov (BE), 8 Nov (JG), 10 Nov (BE, DT, JG).

American White Pelican: High count: 3,600 in Marion Co. 23 Aug (AB). 3,000 in Polk Co. 22 Sep (BE) dropped to 1,350 by 25 Sep (JJD). These numbers are under some of the recent peaks; Jim Dinsmore noted that birds at Saylorville seemed to continue moving rather than staying and building up numbers, perhaps due to a previous winter kill of their traditional food supply.

Double-crested Cormorant: 4,605 were counted on 16 Oct in Pottawattamie Co. (MO).

American Bittern: Reported from seven counties. Last three reports (singles): 13 Oct in Dickinson Co. (ET), 17 Oct in Johnson Co. (MCD), 10 Nov in Pottawattamie Co. (MO).

Least Bittern: Immatures were found at Zirbel Sl. in Cerro Gordo Co. on 22 Aug (CF) and 31 Aug (RG). The only other report was of a single bird on 10 Aug in Fremont Co. (AB).

Great Egret: High counts: 120 on 25 Aug at Runnells in Warren Co. (MPr), 110 on 10 Aug at Green Island in Jackson Co. (THK), and 66 on 23 Aug in Marion Co. (AB). Last: 1 on 22 Nov in Johnson Co. (JLF) [2nd latest record].

Snowy Egret: Reported from six distinct locations in southern and eastern Iowa. Last two reports: 1 in Marion Co. on 22 Sep (AB, SJD) and 4 in Mills Co. on 9 Oct (BKP, LJP) [2nd latest record].

Little Blue Heron: All: 2 at Flaming Prairie in Louisa Co. on 10 Aug (JLF) and two at the Sedan W.A. in Appanoose Co. on 3 Oct (RC, TJ) [2nd latest record].

Cattle Egret: All: 4 in Appanoose Co. on 3 Oct (TJ, RC) and another on 28 Oct (TJ); one in Warren Co. on 12 Oct (JG); five in Marion Co. on 29 Oct (AB).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Last three reports: 1 on 15 Sep in Cerro Gordo Co. (RG); 1 on 19 Sep in Appanoose Co. (RC); 1 immature in Polk Co. on the very late date of 1 Nov (PHA, RIA-details).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: No reports.

Ibis species: There was a single report of a juvenile on 22 Sep in Lee Co. (SJD).

Turkey Vulture: High count: 465 at Effigy Mounds, Allamakee Co. on 26 Sep (FL). Last: on 9 Nov in Pottawattamie Co. (MO).

Greater White-fronted Goose: First: 66 on 16 Oct in Pottawattamie Co. (MO). 104 on 1 Nov at Union Slough N.W.R. (MM).

Snow Goose: First: 1 on 10 Aug in Fremont Co. (AB). High count: a mere 2,000 on 29 Nov in Plymouth Co. (BFH).

Ross's Goose: A record early individual occurred on 15 Sep in Cerro Gordo Co. (CN*, RG*, PH*). Ten other reports were scattered through Emmet (LAS), Johnson (JH, MCD, CE), Marion (AB), Plymouth (BFH), Polk (AB), Pottawattamie (MO), and Woodbury (JDP) counties.

Mute Swan: 1 on 22 Sep in Lee Co. (SJD) and 1 from 18 Oct–18 Nov in Dickinson Co. (LAS, ET, RG-details).

Trumpeter Swan: One of unknown origin was in Polk Co. on 2 Sep (DT) and another was in the company of a Tundra Swan in Allamakee Co. on 24 Oct (FL-details).

Tundra Swan: First: 30 on 21 Oct in Allamakee Co. (DC). High count: 800 on 12 Nov in Allamakee Co. (CE).

American Black Duck: First few: 1–5 Oct in Polk Co. (JG, AB); 21 Oct in Allamakee Co. (DC); 27 Oct in Polk Co. (AB). High count: 11 on 12 Nov in Allamakee Co. (CE).

Mallard: 6,180 were counted on 28 Nov in Union Co. (AB).

Blue-winged Teal: High count: 1,373 on 26 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (MM).

Cinnamon Teal: No reports.

Northern Pintail: Reported throughout the season from all corners of the state.

Green-winged Teal: High count: 1,222 in Kossuth Co on 10 Oct. (MM).

Canvasback: Only three reports of small groups in this mild fall.

Ring-necked Duck: 200 were counted on 3 Nov in Appanoose Co. (RC).

Greater Scaup: First: 2 on 29 Oct in Marion Co. (AB). The only others reported were two in Johnson Co. on 2–6 Nov (CE-details, MCD-details).

Lesser Scaup: High count: 1,000 on 3 Nov in Appanoose Co. (RC).

Surf Scoter: Two reports may have been of the same female bird: 12 Nov in Emmet Co (LAS) and 17 Nov in Dickinson Co. (LAS).

White-winged Scoter: 1 adult and 1 juvenile on 14 Nov at Red Rock Res. (AB).

Black Scoter: Two female/immatures on 11 Nov in Marion Co. (AB) and a female in Dickinson Co. first appeared on 17 Nov (LAS, ET).

Long-tailed Duck: 2 on 10 Nov in Pottawattamie Co. (BKP, LJP) and 1 on 19 Nov in Marion Co. (AB).

Bufflehead: First: 28 Oct in Polk Co (RC). High count: 150 at Lake Manawa in Pottawattamie Co. on 29 Nov (BKP, LJP).

Common Goldeneye: First: 50 on 12 Nov in Allamakee Co. (CE).

Hooded Merganser: 63 in Pottawattamie Co. on 29 Nov (BKP, LJP).

Common Merganser: A record early male in eclipse plumage first discovered on 12 Oct in Marion Co. (AB) may have summered in Iowa. It stayed in the area until 21 Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser: First: 1 on 18 Oct Marion Co. (JLF) [3rd earliest record]. Also reported from Polk (AB), Cerro Gordo (PH), and Pottawattamie (BKP, LJP) counties.

Ruddy Duck: High count: 425 on 28 Oct at Saylorsville Res. (DT). An adult with five young at Colo Ponds in Story Co. on 26 Aug indicates a first nesting in that county (HZ).

Osprey: Reported in Allamakee, Cerro Gordo, Johnson, Marshall, Polk, Pottawattamie, and Winneshiek counties. High count: 10 on 22 Sep at Effigy Mounds in Allamakee Co. (FL). Numbers were down in the west (MO), but a total of 29 counted at Grammar Grove in the east repeated the previous high total (BPr).

Mississippi Kite: Two reports: 1 on 23 Sep in Pottawattamie Co. (MO) and 1 on 23 Sep in Polk Co. (PW).

Bald Eagle: High counts: 55 at the Hitchcock N.A. hawk watch in Pottawattamie Co. on 25 Nov (MO), 31 at Effigy Mounds in Allamakee Co. on 28 Sep (FL), and 22 at Grammar Grove in Marshall Co on 25 Nov (BPr). Hitchcock set a new record total of 591 birds over the watch season (includes Dec).

Northern Harrier: 15 on 23 Sep in Pottawattamie Co. (MO) was the peak. 9 at Grammar Grove in Marshall Co. on 5 Oct (BPr) and 6 on 28 Oct in Appanoose Co. (TJ).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: Peak was on the same day, 23 Sep, at two hawkwatch locations: 89 in Pottawattamie Co. (MO) and 75 in Marshall Co. (BPr). Leshner counted 32 on 25 Sep at Effigy Mounds in Allamakee Co. Another big day was 14 Oct when 62 were counted in Marshall Co. (BPr). The fall total at Grammar Grove was 582 birds, second only to Red-tailed Hawks on the season.

Cooper's Hawk: Two peaks: 41 on 23 Sep and 56 on 5 Oct at Grammar Grove in Marshall Co. (BPr). The season total of 171 at the Grammar Grove station eclipsed the previous record by 8.



Cooper's Hawk in Cerro Gordo County, Iowa on 22 November 2001. Photo by Carolyn J. Fischer.

Northern Goshawk: The first of ten reports was on 13 Sep in O'Brien Co. (DK). Also found in Pottawattamie (MO), Marshall (BPr), Cerro Gordo (RG, PH), Warren (AJ), Polk (AB), and Johnson (JLF) counties.

Red-shouldered Hawk: A really rare raptor this fall; there were only three reports of single birds: 14 Oct in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH), 26 Oct in Polk Co. (AJ), 10 Nov in Marshall Co. (BPr). None were counted at the Hitchcock N.A. in Pottawattamie County (MO).

Broad-winged Hawk: Immatures found at Call S.P. in Kossuth Co. 12 Aug indicate nesting (MCK). The big flights were 22–23 Sep in both the east and the west, with a high count of 1,408 on 22 Sep in Allamakee Co. (FL). D. Kramer counted about 450 over Waterloo on 16 Sep. Last: 1 on 14 Oct in Pottawattamie Co. (MO).

Swainson's Hawk: An adult and two juveniles were found on 1 Aug in Cerro Gordo Co. (RG) near where they have bred in the past. High: 553 on 5 Oct in Pottawattamie Co. (MO). Last: same location on 14 Oct.

FERRUGINOUS HAWK: A report was referred to the Records Committee.

Rough-legged Hawk: First: 7 Oct in Story Co. (WO). Also reported from Pottawattamie (MO), Marshall (BPr), and Cerro Gordo (RG) counties.

Golden Eagle: Ten reports with the first three on consecutive days: 14 Oct in Pottawattamie Co. (MO), 15 Oct in Pottawattamie Co. (MO), and 16 Oct in Marshall Co. (BPr). J. Fuller found an adult and two juveniles in Allamakee county on 18 Nov. At Grammar Grove in Marshall Co., the watchers tied their season high total with 5 birds (BPr). Also reported from Cerro Gordo Co. (CN).

Merlin: First few: An immature, prairie race, was found 26 Aug in Boone Co. (DCH); the next was in Winneshiek Co. on 3 Sep (DC); and on 7 Sep 1 each was in Carroll (MCK) and Sac (ET) counties. Five individuals were found during a Cerro Gordo Big Day on 15 Sep (RG, CN, PH).

GYRFALCON: A report was referred to the Records Committee.

Peregrine Falcon: Twenty reports from ten counties. High: 6 on 23 Sep in Allamakee Co. (FL) and 6 on 30 Sep in Pottawattamie Co. (MO).

Prairie Falcon: Two reports on successive days from the Hitchcock N.A. hawk watch: a juvenile on 14 Oct and an adult on 15 Oct in Pottawattamie Co. (MO).

Gray Partridge: Most: 20 on 4 Oct in Cerro Gordo Co. (THK) and 18 in same county three weeks later (CF). Groups of 2–10 in Greene (AB), Kossuth (PH), and Sac (ET) counties.

Ruffed Grouse: All: 2 on 16 Nov in Yellow River Forest, Allamakee Co. (RG).

Wild Turkey: Reported from widely scattered locations. Most: 30 on 28 Oct in Pottawattamie Co. (MO).

Yellow Rail: No reports.

King Rail: No reports.

Virginia Rail: Five reports of single birds: 6 Aug in Dickinson Co. (LAS); 26 Aug in Kossuth Co. (PH); 15 Sep in Cerro Gordo Co. (RG); 16 Sep in Appanoose Co. (TJ); 17 Nov at Banner Pits in Warren Co. (JS—details) [2nd latest fall record].

Sora: 35 were counted on 16 Sep in Appanoose Co. (TJ). Last: 3 on 10 Oct in Cerro Gordo Co. (RG).

Common Moorhen: No reports.

American Coot: Every October and November report exceeded 1,000 birds. High count: 7,600 on 5 Oct in Polk Co. (AB).

Sandhill Crane: During 15–25 Oct, as many as 14 were counted along Otter Creek M. in Tama Co. (MPR). Two adults with two immatures in Worth Co. on 19 Sep (CF) indicate a probable first county nesting there. The only other report was from Jackson Co. where two birds were found on 2 Aug (JLF).

Black-bellied Plover: First: 1 on 13 Aug at Coralville Res. (MCD). Last: 1 on 29 Nov in Johnson Co. (JLF) [2nd latest record]. Groups were 13 on 27 Oct in Dickinson Co. (LAS) and 10 in Kossuth Co. on 15 Oct (MCK).



Sandhill Cranes, the first confirmed for Worth County on 19 September 2001. Photo by Carolyn J. Fischer.

American Golden-Plover: First: 1 on 1 Aug in Johnson Co. (JLF). Last: 1 on 28 Oct in Johnson Co. (MCD). Most: 14 at Union Slough N.W.R. on 6 Oct (PH) and up to 13 birds spent the last week in Aug at the sod farms north of Mason City in Cerro Gordo Co. (RG, PH).

Semipalmated Plover: First: 4 on 1 Aug in Warren Co. (JG). Last: 1 on 28 Oct in Johnson Co. (MCD). Most: 25 on 11 Aug in Polk Co. (BE).

Piping Plover: The single report away from their nesting location in Pottawattamie Co. was 4 found on 2 Aug at Red Rock Res. (MPR).

American Avocet: All: 1 on 7 Aug in Polk Co. (AB); 1 on 7 Aug in Johnson Co. (JLF, MCD); 7 on 18 Aug in Louisa Co. (DKi); 4 on 27 Aug in Polk Co. (DT); 4 on 11 Oct in Johnson Co. (JLF).

- Greater Yellowlegs:** First: 1 on 4 Aug in Polk Co. (BE). Most: 25 at Union Slough N.W.R. on 13 Oct (PH). One was still at Big Creek S.P. in Polk Co. at the end of the season (JG*), only the second time a bird has lingered into December.
- Lesser Yellowlegs:** First: 42 on 12 Aug in Marion Co. (AB). A few stayed through the end of the season and to record late dates in December at Big Creek SP in Polk Co. (JG*).
- Solitary Sandpiper:** First: 1 on 22 Aug in Polk Co. (JG). Last: 1 on 5 Oct in Polk Co. (AB).
- Willet:** First: 2 on 1 Aug at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). Last: 1 on 1 Oct in Johnson Co. (JH) [3rd latest record]. Also reported from Polk (BE), Dickinson (LAS), and Louisa (DKi) counties.
- Upland Sandpiper:** All: 1 on 11 Aug in Greene Co. (JJD); 1 on 11 Aug in Marion Co. (JS); 1 on 27 Aug in Polk Co. (DT); 2 on 8 Sep in Carroll Co. (MCK).
- Marbled Godwit:** The only report was one on 7 Sep at Dunbar Sl. in Greene Co. (CF-details).
- Ruddy Turnstone:** All: 6 at Saylorville Res. on 31 Jul–1 Aug (JG). One in Marion Co. on 1 Sep (AB).
- RED KNOT:** Two reports of juveniles of this casual species were referred to the Records Committee. The second on 12 Sep in Johnson Co. was seen by many and photographed by J. Fuller (JLF*, MCD*, THK*, CE*).
- Sanderling:** First: 1 in Pottawattamie Co. on 27 Jul (AB). Last: 1 on 6 Nov in Johnson Co. (JH). Also reported from Dickinson (ET, LAS), Mills (BKP, LJP), Polk (DT, RC), and Woodbury (BFH) counties.
- Semipalmated Sandpiper:** 263 were counted in Polk County on 7 Aug (AB). The last were "a few" still at Union Slough N.W.R. on 1 Nov (MM).
- Least Sandpiper:** As usual, the early returns showed up prior to 1 Aug. High count: 63 in Fremont Co. on 19 Aug (AB). Last: 2 on 14 Nov in Mahaska Co. (MPr).
- White-rumped Sandpiper:** Up to five birds were seen on and off at Coralville Res. from 16 Sep until 2 Oct. (JH*, MCD*, JLF*, CE*, THK). This species is rare in fall in the interior. Photos taken by Kent may be the first modern photos for Iowa in the fall.
- Baird's Sandpiper:** First and most: 17 on 7 Aug in Polk Co. (AB). Last: 5 at Union Slough N.W.R. on 31 Oct (MCK). Also reported from Cerro Gordo (RG) and Johnson (CE, MCD) counties.
- Pectoral Sandpiper:** First and most: 1,700 on 11 Aug in Polk Co. (BE). 624 in Marion Co. on 12 Aug (AB). Last: 4 on 15 Nov in Polk Co. (AB).
- Dunlin:** All: 1 in Johnson Co. 28 Sep (MCD); 36 at Union Slough N.W.R. on 15 Oct (MCK) stayed at least until the end of the month; 9 in Palo Alto Co. on 3 Nov (LAS); and 9 in Polk Co. on 14–15 Nov (AB).
- Stilt Sandpiper:** Reported from Appanoose, Cerro Gordo, Dickinson, Johnson, Kossuth, Marion, Mills, Polk, Tama, and Winneshiek counties. First: 28 on 2 Aug in Marion Co. (MPr). Last: 20 on 21 Oct in Kossuth Co. (PH). High: 220 on 5 Sep in Marion Co. (AB).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: First: 27 on 6 Aug at Dugout Creek in Dickinson Co. (LAS). 27 in Polk Co. on 18 Aug (BE). Smaller groups and individuals were found in Cerro Gordo (RG), Johnson (MCD), Louisa (JLF), and Polk (MPr, BE) counties. Last: 2 on 7 Sep in Polk Co. (AB).

Short-billed Dowitcher: First: 1 on 16 Aug in Tama Co. (PH, MPr). Last: 1 on 12 Sep in Johnson Co. (JLF, THK).

Long-billed Dowitcher: An extremely early bird was identified by call on 21 Aug at Runnells in Marion Co. (JS). The next report was 3 Oct in Appanoose Co. (RC). High: 120 on 13 Oct at Union Slough N.W.R. (PH). Last: 1 at same location on 7 Nov (MCK).

Common Snipe: Highs: 70 on 16 Sep in Appanoose Co. (TJ), 33 on 29 Nov in Johnson Co. (JLF), 27 on 11 Nov in Mahaska Co. (AB).

American Woodcock: No reports.

Wilson's Phalarope: All: 3 at Runnells in Marion Co. on 2 Aug (MPr); 2 in Johnson Co. on 4 Aug (MCD); 1 on 5 Sep in Marion Co. (AB).

Red-necked Phalarope: First: 1 on 11 Aug in Greene Co. (AB). Last: 1 on 3 Oct in Warren Co. (AB). Also reported from Appanoose (RC), Hardin (MPr), Marion (JS, AB), Palo Alto (LAS), Polk (JG), and Tama (MPr) counties.

RED PHALAROPE: A report was referred to the Records Committee.

Franklin's Gull: Highs: 17,000 at Saylorville Res. on 13 Oct (BE), 10,000 in Pottawattamie Co. on 5 Oct (MO), 10,000 in Marion Co. on 6 Oct (RC). Last: 1 on 15 Nov in Marion Co. (AB).

BLACK-HEADED GULL: A single adult appeared on 6 Oct at the usual location on the north side of Spirit L. in Dickinson Co. and stayed through at least 17 Nov (LAS*, ET*), which was record late at this location.

Bonaparte's Gull: First: 1 on 23 Aug in Marion Co. (AB). Last: 9 in Pottawattamie Co. (BKP, LJP) and 1 in Johnson Co. (JLF) on 29 Nov. High: 62 at Big Creek in Polk Co. on 20 Oct (BE).

Herring Gull: Three early-returning birds were in Dickinson Co. on 8 Aug (DCH).

Thayer's Gull: Four reports, all at Red Rock Res.: 27 Oct (AJ) [3rd third earliest record]; 1 adult on 6 Nov (AB); 1 juvenile during 14–21 Nov (AB); and 1 adult on 21 Nov (AB).

Sabine's Gull: A remarkable nine reports matches the total of all reports over the last five years. First: 1 on 25 Aug in Polk Co. (PHA, RIA*) [3rd earliest record]. Also: 9 Sep in Polk Co. (DT*, JC); 16 Sep in Polk Co. (BE); 21 Sep in Polk Co. (SJD, AB); 22 Sep in Marion Co. (SJD, AB); 26 Sep in Pottawattamie Co. (BKP, LJP); 30 Sep in Clay Co. (LAS*); 3 Oct in Polk Co. (AB); and 13 Oct in Dickinson Co. (PH).

Black-legged Kittiwake: A single juvenile was on private property in Johnson Co. on 28 Nov (MCD*).

Caspian Tern: First: 1 on 6 Aug in Marion Co. (AB). Last: 1 on 6 Oct in Marion Co. (AB). High: 109 on 17 Sep in Marion Co. (AB). Also reported from Cerro Gordo (PH), Johnson (MCD), Polk (BE, PW), Pottawattamie (BKP, LJP), and Story (WO) counties.

Common Tern: All: 4 on 22 Sep in Polk Co. (JJD, BE) and 1 in Lee Co. (SJD). 1 in Dickinson Co. on 29 Sep (LAS); 1 in Johnson Co. on 12 Oct (PHA, RIA). Last: 1 in Dickinson Co. on 13 Oct (LAS-details) [ties 2nd latest record].

Forster's Tern: Last: 4 on 16 Oct in Johnson Co. (MCD).

Least Tern: There were no reports away from their nesting area in Pottawattamie County. Five adults and seven immatures were last seen there 11 Aug (AB).

Black Tern: High: 75 in Dickinson Co. on 1 Aug (ET). Last: 12 on 15 Sep in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH).

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE: Reported from one repeat and three new locations: One or two birds were at an historically consistent location in Grinnell, Poweshiek Co. on 13 Sep, 17 Sep, and 8 Oct (MP-details). The three reports of birds at new locations were referred to the Records Committee.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE:

Documentation for a single bird at a feeder in Spirit Lake, Dickinson Co. 1-7 Oct (ET*photos, LAS*, PH*) was referred to the Records Committee.

Black-billed Cuckoo: Two reports: 1 on 19 Sep in Lucas Co. (AB) and 1 on 20 Sep in Johnson Co. (JLF).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 1 on 20 Oct at Hitchcock N.A. in Pottawattamie Co. (JM*) [3rd latest].

Eastern Screech-Owl: Only two people mentioned seeing this hard-to-find permanent resident. It was found in Dickinson (ET) and Cerro Gordo (RG) counties.

Snowy Owl: The only report was a single bird first noticed on 13 Nov near Union Slough N.W.R. and found dead on 28 Nov (MM). The last fall bird appeared six years ago to the day (13 Nov 1995).

Long-eared Owl: There were three reports of single birds: 20 Oct at Brown's L. in Woodbury Co. (BFH); 19 Nov in Marion Co. (AB); 25 Nov at Elk Creek in Worth Co. (PH, RG).

Short-eared Owl: All: 1 on 19 Aug at Hawkeye in Johnson Co. (JH); 1 at Hitchcock N.A. in Pottawattamie Co. (MO); 1 on 10 Nov in Clay Co. (LAS); 3 on 29 Nov in Wayne Co. (AB).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: Only report was 1 on 4 Nov in a honeysuckle bush in Polk Co. (BE).

Common Nighthawk: Last few: 6 on 7 Oct in Polk Co. (PW); 1 on 9 Oct in Polk Co. (PHA, RIA); and 1 on 12 Oct in Johnson Co. (JLF). High count: 110 on 22 Sep over Algona (MCK), Kossuth Co.

Whip-poor-will: 15 on 15 Aug and 12 the next day were suspected to be local birds near Hitchcock N.A. in Pottawattamie Co. (MO). At a Cerro Gordo Co. site monitored every dawn from 12 Aug to 14 Sep, 15 birds were counted with the first on 16 Aug and the last on 7 Sep. Peak was 3 on 29 Aug (RG, PH). 5 in Pottawattamie Co. on 31 Aug and 2 in Plymouth Co. on 6 Sep (BFH). Last: 1 on 28 Sep at Hitchcock (MO).

Chimney Swift: High count: 3,100 on 23 Sep in Jefferson Co. (DP). Last: 3 on 11 Oct in Polk Co. (PHA, RIA); 7 on 12 Oct in Appanoose Co. (RC); and 12 on 16 Oct in Jefferson Co. (DP).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Last: 1 in Cerro Gordo Co. on 2 Oct (RG).

Red-headed Woodpecker: 70 were counted on 8 Sep in Pottawattamie Co. by hawkwatch staff (fide MO).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Last: 1 on 24 Nov in Johnson Co. (JLF).

THREE-TOED WOODPECKER: A report of a single bird was referred to the Records Committee.

Pileated Woodpecker: Reported from Floyd, Hardin, Johnson, Jones, and Marshall counties.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: First few: 2 on 10 Aug in Dickinson Co. (MPr) and 1 on 11 Aug in Cerro Gordo Co. (CF). Last few: 1 on 22 Sep in Polk Co. (BE) and 1 on 30 Sep in Warren Co. (JS).

Eastern Wood Pewee: Last two: 1 on 30 Sep in Warren Co. (JS) and 1 on 1 Oct in Marshall Co. (BPr).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: First: 2 on 15 Aug at Call S.P. in Kossuth Co. (MCK). Last: 1 on 12 Sep in Kossuth Co. (MCK) and 1 on 15 Sep at White Preserve in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH).

Acadian Flycatcher: 1 on 10 Aug at Wildcat Den S.P. in Muscatine Co. was identified by voice (JLF).

Least Flycatcher: Last: 1 on 21 Sep in Hardin Co. (MPr). D. Thompson counted about 30 at Saylorville in Polk Co. on 8 Aug.

Eastern Phoebe: Last: 1 on 25 Oct in Cerro Gordo Co. (RG).

Great Crested Flycatcher: Last: 1 on 26 Sep in Winneshiek Co. (Larry Reis fide DC).

Western Kingbird: All: 1 on 4 Aug in Pottawattamie Co. (JJD); 3 on 11 Aug in Fremont Co. (AB); 1 on 24 Aug in Pottawattamie Co. (MO). Last: 1 on 26 Aug at Doolittle Prairie in Story Co. (Paul Martsching fide JJD).

Eastern Kingbird: Last: 1 on 13 Sep in Story Co. (WO) ties the latest date for that county.

Loggerhead Shrike: All: 1 on 11 Aug in Greene Co. (JJD); 1 on 27 Aug in Story Co. (JJD); and a late bird was videotaped on 28 Oct in Pottawattamie Co. (MO*).

Northern Shrike: First: 1 on 6 Nov at Cone M. in Louisa Co. (JH).

White-eyed Vireo: There was one report of a single bird on 1 Sep in Van Buren Co. (RC).

Bell's Vireo: Last few: 1 on 2 Sep in Polk Co. (DT) was still singing; 1 in Pottawattamie Co. on 3 Sep (MO); 1 at William's Prairie in Johnson Co. on 6 Sep (JLF).

Yellow-throated Vireo: 7 of 12 birds reported were seen on 21–22 Sep. Last: 1 in Polk Co. on 29 Sep (PW).

Blue-headed Vireo: First: 1 on 27 Aug in Woodbury Co. (BFH). Last: 1 on 7 Oct in Polk Co. (BE).

Warbling Vireo: Last: On 21 Sep, 1 in Woodbury Co. (BFH) and 1 in Polk Co. (AB).

Philadelphia Vireo: First: 1 on 18 Aug in Marshall Co. (MPr). Last two: 1 on 29 Sep in Allamakee Co. (FL) and 1 in Marshall Co. (MPr).

Red-eyed Vireo: Last: On 1 Oct, 1 in Marion Co. (AB) and 1 in Poweshiek Co (MPr). D. Thompson remarked that this fall produced the most he had ever seen.

Purple Martin: Last: 315 in Dickinson Co. on 15 Oct. (ET) were the latest since 1970 and the second latest on record.

Tree Swallow: R. Cummins estimated there were 20,000 in Marion Co. on 6 Oct. Last: 1 on 28 Oct in Appanoose Co. (TJ).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: High count: 6,000 on 1 Sep in Emmet Co. (LAS) Last: 10 on 25 Sep in Polk Co. (RC).

Bank Swallow: Last and most: 50 on 21 Sep in Pottawattamie Co. (MO).

Cliff Swallow: Last: 4 on 1 Sep in Van Buren Co. (RC).

Barn Swallow: 2,000 were counted in Marion Co. on 22 Sep (SJD). Last: 20 on 14 Oct in Pottawattamie Co. (MO).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Fairly common — birds suddenly showed up on 28 Aug in four different counties (Lucas, Marshall, Polk, Wayne) (AB, MPr). Matt Kenne found six in the same spruce tree on 18 Sep. in Algona, Kossuth Co.

Brown Creeper: First few: 1 on 27 Aug in Woodbury Co. (BFH) and 1 on 1 Sep in Appanoose Co. (RC).

Carolina Wren: Seven contributors mentioned this species in six southern and eastern counties. J. Fuller had one in his yard throughout the period. D. Thompson had one in his yard until 4 Nov.

House Wren: Last: 1 on 12 Oct in Hardin Co. (MPr).

Winter Wren: First: 1 on 22 Sep in Jefferson Co. (DKi). Last: 1 on 17 Oct in Woodbury Co. (BFH). Five on 29 Sep in Warren Co. (JS).

Sedge Wren: Last: 1 on 21 Oct in Jefferson Co. (DKi).

Marsh Wren: Last few: 2 in Appanoose Co. on 19 Oct (RC) and one was still in Woodbury Co. on 20 Oct (BFH).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: First: 3 on 23 Sep in Polk Co. (PW).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: First: 5 on 1 Sep in Pottawattamie Co. (MO).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Last: 1 on 17 Sep in Tama Co. (MPr).

Veery: Only report: 1 on 27 Aug in Cerro Gordo Co. (RG).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: Two reports: 1 on 15 Sep in Cerro Gordo Co. (CN) and 1 on 21 Sep in Story Co. (SJD).

Swainson's Thrush: First: three reports from three different counties on 6 Sep: Kossuth (MCK), Polk (PW), and Woodbury (BFH). Last: 1 on 19 Sep at Call S.P. in Kossuth Co. (MCK).

Hermit Thrush: First: 3 on 4 Oct in Cerro Gordo Co (PH). Birds were still being seen on 29 Nov in O'Brien Co. (DK).

Wood Thrush: Last were on the same day, same latitude, 80 miles apart. One was singing in Greene Co. (AB), and another was found in Marshall Co. (MPr) on 11 Aug.

American Robin: About 14,000 passed the hawkwatch counting station in Pottawattamie Co. on 21 Oct (MO).

Varied Thrush: No reports.

Gray Catbird: Last: 1 on 20 Nov in Johnson Co. (THK).

Northern Mockingbird: One report from Wayne Co. on 24 Oct (AB).

Brown Thrasher: A scarce bird this fall. Only two reports with the last on 29 Sep in Pottawattamie Co. (MO).

American Pipit: Early: 1 in Marion Co. (JS) on 12 Aug [2nd earliest record]. There were five reports of small flocks of from 8 to 15 birds. The largest concentration was a flock of 28 on 19 Oct in Kossuth Co. (MCK).

Blue-winged Warbler: Last: 1 on 8 Sep in Polk Co. (BE) and 1 on 10 Sep in Lucas Co. (AB).

Golden-winged Warbler: First: 2 on 19 Aug in Winneshiek Co. (DC). Last: 1 on 17 Sep in Lucas Co. (AB).

Tennessee Warbler: First: 1 on 10 Aug in Kossuth Co. (MCK). Last: 1 on 9 Oct in Woodbury Co. (BFH).

Orange-crowned Warbler: First few (all singles): 8 Sep in Polk Co. (BE) and in Carroll Co. (MPR), then a gap of nearly two weeks to the next birds on 20 Sep in Johnson Co. (JLF) and 22 Sep in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH). Last few (all singles): 13 Oct in Marshall Co. (MPR), 19 Oct in Appanoose Co. (RC), and 21 Oct in Kossuth Co. (MCK).

Nashville Warbler: First: 1 on 14 Aug in Kossuth Co. (MCK). Last: 1 on 18 Oct in Madison Co. (PHA, RIA). R. Cummins counted 22 birds on 1 Sep in Van Buren Co.

Northern Parula: 50% of reports were for the period 17-22 Sep. Last: 1 on 2 Oct in Hardin Co. (MPR).

Yellow Warbler: Only four reports of this common summer nester. Last: 2 on 22 Sep in Polk Co. (JG).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: Last: 1 each on 1 Oct in Marshall Co (BPr) and Allamakee Co. (FL).

Magnolia Warbler: First: 2 on 14 Aug in Marshall Co. (MPR) [ties 2nd earliest record]. Last: 1 on 1 Oct in Cerro Gordo Co. (RG).

Cape May Warbler: Ten reports from five eastern or central counties. First: 1 on 7 Sep in Polk Co. (AB). Last: 1 on 23 Oct in Jefferson Co. (DP). T. Kent found 5 at Lake McBride in Johnson Co. on 15 Sep.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: Six reports, all individuals: A male on 27-31 Aug in Johnson Co. (JH); a male on 8 Sep in Carroll Co. was seen by many; a female on 17 Sep in Marion Co. (AB); another female on 20 Sep in Johnson Co. (JLF); a male on 20 Sep in Kossuth Co. (MCK); and a male was a yard bird on 30 Sep in Marshall Co. (MPR, BPr).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: First: 1 on 17 Sep in Tama Co. (MPR). R. Cummins counted 50 individuals on 19 Oct in Appanoose Co.

Black-throated Green Warbler: First: 1 on 21 Aug in Winneshiek Co. (DC). Last: 1 on 30 Sep in Marshall Co. (MPR).

Blackburnian Warbler: First on 10 Aug in Kossuth Co. (MCK) [ties 3rd earliest record]. Last: 2 on 17 Sep in Lucas Co. (AB).

Yellow-throated Warbler: Four reports were more than usual for this rare nester. One was found on 18 Aug in Polk Co. (RCe); one on 15 Sep may be a first Cerro Gordo county record (CN-details, RG-details); 1 on 16 Sep in Van Buren Co. (DKi); and the last on 21 Sep in Hardin Co. was a first fall sighting for M. Proescholdt.

Pine Warbler: All: 1 on 16 Sep in Kossuth Co. (MCK-details); 1 on 20 Sep in Johnson Co. (JLF).

Palm Warbler: Two reports, both on 15 Sep: 2 in Cerro Gordo Co. (RG) and 1 in Warren Co. (JS).

- Bay-breasted Warbler:** First: on 14 Aug in Kossuth Co. (MCK). Last: 1 on 2 Oct in Hardin Co. (MPR).
- Blackpoll Warbler:** 1 on 25 Aug in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH).
- Cerulean Warbler:** The only report was a late bird found in Pottawattamie Co. on 1 Sep (Clem Klaphake fide MO).
- Black-and-white Warbler:** Many reports with a third of them coming in the first week of Sep. Last: 1 on 3 Oct in Allamakee Co. (FL) and Cerro Gordo Co. (RG).
- American Redstart:** Last: 1 on 29 Sep in Marshall Co. (MPR).
- Prothonotary Warbler:** All: 1 on 18 Aug in Polk Co. (BE) and 1 on 27 Aug in Marion Co. (AB).
- Worm-eating Warbler:** One was banded and photographed on 19 Oct in Pocahontas County (Ron Harms fide Peter Erzen). This is a record late bird by more than a month [15 Sep 1984].
- Ovenbird:** Last: 1 on 13 Oct in Winneshiek Co. (Larry Reis fide DC).
- Northern Waterthrush:** First: 1 each in Dickinson Co. on 10 Aug (MPR) and 12 Aug (ET). Last: 1 in Dickinson Co. (PHA, RIA) on 29 Oct [3rd latest record].
- Louisiana Waterthrush:** The only report was a record-late bird found on 15 Sep in Warren Co. (JS-details).
- Kentucky Warbler:** No reports.
- Connecticut Warbler:** All: 1 in Cerro Gordo Co. (RG) on 27 Aug. 1 immature on 28 Aug in Jefferson Co. (DKi).
- Mourning Warbler:** Four reports: 1 on 17 Aug in Marshall Co. (MPR); 1 on 2 Sep in Polk Co. (EB); 1 immature on 12 Sep in Marshall Co. (MPR); 1 immature on 15 Sep in Warren Co. (JS).
- Common Yellowthroat:** Last: 4 on 1 Oct in Cerro Gordo Co. (RG).
- Hooded Warbler:** No reports.
- Wilson's Warbler:** First: 1 on 14 Aug in Marshall Co. (MPR). Last: 1 on 1 Oct in Marion Co. (AB).
- Canada Warbler:** First: 2 in Marshall Co. on 14 Aug (MPR). Last: 1 in Pottawattamie Co. on 16 Sep (MO).
- Yellow-breasted Chat:** There was a single report of one in Pottawattamie Co. (MO) on 16 Aug.
- Summer Tanager:** The only report was 1 on 10 Sep in Stephen's S.F. in Lucas Co. (AB).
- Scarlet Tanager:** Last: 1 in Warren Co. on 29 Sep (JS) and 1 in Marion Co. on 1 Oct (AB).
- Spotted Towhee:** All: 1 on 3 Oct visited a yard in Cerro Gordo Co. (RG); 2 on 11–12 Oct in Mill Creek S.P. in O'Brien Co. (DK); and 2 in Pottawattamie Co. on 29 Oct (MO).
- Eastern Towhee:** Last: 1 on 7 Nov in Polk Co. (JC).
- American Tree Sparrow:** First: 2 in Woodbury Co. on 20 Oct (BFH). On 21 Oct, birds were reported in Allamakee (DC) and Kossuth (MCK) counties.
- Chipping Sparrow:** Last: 1 on 30 Oct in Kossuth Co. (MCK). 20 counted on 6 Oct in Marion Co. (RC).
- Clay-colored Sparrow:** Exactly as last year, there was one report on 3 Oct. This year's bird was an immature in Cerro Gordo Co. (RG).
- Field Sparrow:** Last: 1 on 29 Oct in Johnson Co. (MCD).
- Vesper Sparrow:** All: 6 on 16 Sep (RC) in Guthrie Co. and 1 on 21 Oct in Pottawattamie Co. (MO).

Lark Sparrow: Three reports: A group of three in Polk Co. on 12 Aug (DT) included a juvenile; 1 on 27 Aug in Polk Co. (DT); and 1 on 12 Sept in Cerro Gordo Co. (RG).

Savannah Sparrow: Last: 12 counted by hawkwatchers on 27 Oct in Pottawattamie Co. (MO).

Grasshopper Sparrow: Last: 1 on 7 Oct at Hitchcock N.A. in Pottawattamie Co. (MO).

Henslow's Sparrow: 1 in Carroll Co. on 8 Sep (PH). Late: 1 on 12 Sep in Cerro Gordo Co. (RG-details).

LeConte's Sparrow: All: 2 on 6 Oct in Pottawattamie Co. (MO); 2 or 3 on 11–12 Oct in Johnson Co. (JH); 2 on 17 Oct at Union Hills W.M.A. in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH). Last: 1 on 21 Oct in Kossuth Co. (MCK).

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: There were six reports during a 3-week interval. First: 1 on 15 Sep in Johnson Co. (MCD-details). Last: 3 on 7 Oct in Johnson Co. (JH). T. Johnson counted 16 on 16 Sep in Appanoose Co.

Fox Sparrow: First: 1 on 27 Sep in Kossuth Co. (MCK). High count: 30 in Winneshiek Co. on 21 Oct (Larry Reis fide DC). Last: 1 on 17 Nov in Pottawattamie Co. (MO).

Lincoln's Sparrow: First: 1 on 24 Aug in Cerro Gordo Co. (CN-details) [early record]. Last: 1 on 27 Oct in Pottawattamie Co. (MO). There were about 100 counted on 6 Oct by hawkwatchers in Pottawattamie Co. (MO) and 12 were counted on 7 Oct in Polk Co. (BE).

White-throated Sparrow: First: 1 on 1 Sep in Marshall Co. (MPR) [early record]. The next report was 1 on 9 Sep in Winneshiek Co. (Larry Zieke fide DC). 45 on 19 Oct in Appanoose Co. (RC).

Harris's Sparrow: First: 1 on 17 Oct in Cerro Gordo Co. (RG). A. Brees counted 220 on 31 Oct in Polk Co. and E. Thelen had 32 on 1 Nov in Dickinson Co.

White-crowned Sparrow: First: 1 on 26 Sep in Cerro Gordo Co. (RG). T. Johnson counted 20 on 23 Oct in Appanoose Co. This species seemed rare. Only five contributors gave dates, and several others noted they did not encounter any this fall.

Dark-eyed Junco: First: 1 on 25 Sep in Hardin Co. (MPR).

Lapland Longspur: First: "dozens" on 19 Oct in Kossuth Co. (MCK). About 2,000 on 3 Nov in Cerro Gordo Co. (THK); about 1,000 on 31 Oct in Kossuth Co. (MCK); about 1,000 on 8 Nov in Story Co. (JJD).

Smith's Longspur: All: 42 on 27 Oct in Dickinson Co. (LAS); 15 on 28 Oct in Dickinson Co. (ET*); 7 on 10 Nov at Dewey's Pasture in Palo Alto Co. (LAS).

Snow Bunting: An early group of 15 was found on 26 Oct in Winneshiek Co. (Larry Reis fide DC). The only other report was another 15 birds in Dickinson Co. on 27 Nov (ET).

Northern Cardinal: An adult feeding three young were found on the late date of 16 Oct in Jefferson Co. (DP).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 230 were counted by hawkwatchers on 16 Aug in Pottawattamie Co. (MO). Last: 1 on 14 Oct in Winneshiek Co. (Lee Zieke fide DC).

Blue Grosbeak: No reports.

Indigo Bunting: Last: 2 on 1 Oct in Poweshiek Co. (MPR).

Dickcissel: Last: 1 on 29 Sep in Pottawattamie Co. (MO).

Bobolink: Flocks of 90–150 birds were reported in the first two weeks of Sep (RC, JLF, THK). Last: 1 on 21 Sep in Polk Co. (AB).

Red-winged Blackbird:

Hawkwatchers at Hitchcock N.A. in Pottawattamie Co. estimated about 10,000 passed by on 29 Oct (MO).

Western Meadowlark: Last: 4 on 3 Nov in Appanoose Co. (RC).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Last: 2 on 29 Sep in Palo Alto Co. (LAS) and 1 on 30 Sep in Pottawattamie Co. (MO).

Rusty Blackbird: First: 8 on 2 Oct in Johnson Co. (THK). 340 were counted on 21 Oct in Allamakee Co. (DC).

Brewer's Blackbird: All: 11 on 13 Oct in Emmet Co. grew to 55 by 20 Oct (LAS); nine on 17 Oct in Cerro Gordo Co. (RG, PH); 6 on 18 Nov at Harrier M. in Boone Co. (JJD); 2 on 29 Nov in Cerro Gordo Co. (CF).

Common Grackle: About 50,000 were estimated at Hitchcock N.A. in Pottawattamie Co. on 28 Oct (MO).

Great-tailed Grackle: Six reports from Greene (JJD), Cerro Gordo (RG, CF), Lucas (AB), Woodbury

(Frank Holloway fide JJD), and Polk (AB) counties. The largest concentration was 82 seen in Lucas Co. on 6 Oct (AB). Last: 1 on 10 Nov in Polk Co. (AB).

Orchard Oriole: 1 on 9 Sep in Carroll Co. (MPr) [ties 3rd latest record].

Baltimore Oriole: Last: 2 on 16 Sep in Pottawattamie Co. (MO).

Purple Finch: D. Akers reported the first on 9 Sep in Garnaville in Clayton Co.

Red Crossbill: All: 4 on 26 Oct on the ISU campus in Story Co. (Nick Osness fide JJD) and one on 18 Nov in Pottawattamie Co. (MO).

White-winged Crossbill: All: 1 on 18–20 Nov in Warren Co. (SS-details).

Common Redpoll: First: 4 on 26 Oct in Pottawattamie Co. (MO). All others: 1 on 4 Nov in Cerro Gordo Co. (Ellen Montgomery fide PH); 2 on 22 Nov in Story Co. (WO); 2 in Marshall Co. on 23 Nov (MPr).

Pine Siskin: First: 10 in Kossuth Co. on 7 Oct (MCK). Thirteen other reports were evenly distributed over the season and state.

COMMENT

This report was distilled from a database of 1,685 individual records submitted by 48 field observers. These records came from 58 of Iowa's 99 counties. Eighty-three records (5%) acknowledged the presence of immature birds.

Tom Kent's advice and guidance were indispensable in making this information coherent. Insightful and helpful comments from Jim Dinsmore, Doug Harr, Matt Kenne, and Dennis Carter were greatly appreciated, and are embedded in this report.

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Records from the Past: Fish Crow

Thomas H. Kent

This is the fourth in a series of articles on unpublished rare bird sightings that have been reviewed by the Iowa Ornithologists' Union Records Committee. Here I deal with the three accepted records of Fish Crow with comments on identification and distribution of this species.

Fish Crow, 8 May 1991, 9:53 to 9:54 A.M., Big Sand Mound Preserve, Muscatine-Louisa County border, Tim Brush, 91-23.

Iowa's first record, accepted in 1995 after re-review along with subsequent records, was described as follows by an experienced ornithologist familiar with this species.

Somewhat small for a crow, all black, no gloss seen but would not expect in light conditions. Wingbeats seemed light for a crow. Called "cah" — nasal, soft in volume — 10 times.



Thomas H. Kent

Called "ca-ha" — also nasal and soft — 1 time. Bird circled 2–3 times directly overhead, otherwise flew steadily and directly south to north over the bottomland forest. Calls eliminated American Crows, which were calling at the same time. I am familiar with both adult and young crow calls of both American and Fish crows. The calls were identical to those of Fish Crows in New Jersey. The circling behavior is unique to Fish Crow and the upriver migration is typical of Fish Crows in New Jersey — overmigration.

Fish Crow, 25 April, 2 May, 4 May, and 19 May 1994, Big Timber Division of Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge, approximately two miles below Kilpeck Landing in Louisa County, Kelly McKay, 94-14.

McKay, who was conducting Mississippi River bird surveys from a boat with Mike Bernstein, reported only on the first observation as follows.

We heard a nasal "cah" call, which sounded too nasal and high to be an American Crow. The call was given 2–3 times. Next, the bird flew 25 to 100 meters in front of us calling as it flew. We saw the bird briefly before it disappeared into the forest. However, it continued calling 8–10 times more. Altogether we heard the bird 12–15 times. The bird was all black, just like an American Crow at the site. The bird was in view about 15 seconds. When we returned to shore, we played the call on the Peterson audio cassette tapes and it was the same call made by the bird we observed. This bird was smaller than American Crows.

Fish Crow, 21, 22, 26 April 1995, Louisa Division of Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge, Louisa County, Thomas H. Kent, Ann Johnson, and Jim Fuller, 95-19.

The reports of Kent, Johnson, and Fuller are given by paragraph in that order.

Much of the refuge was flooded so that I could not get to the usual parking lot. I had intended to walk the dike to look for Fish Crow and unusual herons. I took my recording gear along. I was able to take a road north to the dike and start my walk farther north than I had intended. When I reached the flooded woodlands on the inside of the dike, I noticed four crows sitting

in the trees. I stopped to watch them for awhile, hoping that they would call. I played a Fish Crow tape and they seemed to ignore it. After a bit, I began to hear soft nasal caws of one or two notes. I am not good at describing sounds, but these noises that appeared to come from the crows were quite unlike the calls of American Crows that were farther away in the area. I tried to record them [the Fish Crows], but I got mostly static, which I assumed was due to the wind. Later, when I changed the batteries and fiddled with my equipment, I got better recordings, but the crows were silent. Subjectively, these birds appeared on the small size compared to American Crow, but both were not present in the same field. The tails appeared short and the legs seemed short also. The bill was stout and a bit decurved at the tip. The forehead was flat and there seemed to be loose feathers between the eye and upper mandible. All these features were subjective. More impressive was the fact that this group of four crows stayed together. During this time a few American Crows flew by calling and others were seen and heard in the distance. The birds moved to the back of the woodland, so I proceeded down the dike to the refuge to look for herons. On my way back I heard one sound that I thought might be a Fish Crow. In a few moments the four crows flew into view and landed near the end of the woods. I approached them hoping to hear more and get some recordings, but they were silent and soon moved to the back of the woods and out of sight.

I parked the car at the bottom of the hill leading to the refuge. Flood waters had closed the road beyond this point. As I began walking the road leading north, I heard a nasal "ca" that was distinctly different from American Crows in the area. The sounds continued for approximately five minutes as I proceeded north, always coming from the vicinity of a flooded wooded area across a flooded field. I walked the levee to the southeast, back toward the area the calls had come from, and was able to observe one or possibly two smallish crows flush from the edge of the water. The calls had stopped, however, so I was unable to determine that the sound had come from this bird.

While walking the Mississippi River levee, a single crow flew across a flooded field at an average distance of about 75 yards. It was visible for about 30 seconds. Later looking through the trees, we [including Jim Fuller, Dick Tetrault, and Chuck Fuller] saw five crows at about 100 yards distance. While flying across

the field, this crow gave an almost continuous call, which was different from the crows "caw." It was slow, single noted, and a much more nasal "cah." The series of single notes was more deliberate, and with greater space between each note than a Common Crow makes. Later, when observing the five crows, one gave the same different call note, while the others in the group were giving the Common Crow "caw." No morphological differences could be distinguished at that distance. The flight of the single crow with the "cah" seemed to be different, with a more rapid flapping of the wings.

The Records Committee had considerable skepticism during the review of these three records — only accepting them after the third record was submitted. The problems included the following: (1) these records are about 110 miles north of the previous northernmost record along the Mississippi River; (2) sight identification is considered unreliable unless seen side-by-side with American Crow; and (3) voice recognition, which requires experience, is easier to judge from recordings than descriptions.

The recent extension of records along the Mississippi River and its tributaries is strongly prejudicial to expecting Fish Crow in Iowa. On the other hand, these brief sightings and failure of a number of people to find them in ensuing years raises the possibility that the contributors of these records heard "what they expected to hear."

The range of the Fish Crow is coastal from New England to eastern Texas and inland along waterways. Birds in their upper range along the Mississippi River are migratory, although occasional overwintering birds have been noted. Northward expansion in the Mississippi Valley began in Arkansas in the 1940s and reached Oklahoma in 1954, Kentucky in 1959, Illinois in 1962, Missouri in 1965, Indiana in 1988, Kansas in 1990, and Iowa in 1991 (Kent and Dinsmore 1996). The regular occurrence up to Saint Louis and more recent locations are shown on the map (Figure 1).

The most useful feature for sight identification is size when compared side-to-side with American Crow, but one frequent observer of the two species in Missouri has seen them together only four times in twenty-three years (McKenzie 1995). Other morphologic features of Fish Crow as compared with American Crow include longer legs, flatter forehead, weaker bill, and rounded tail (Madge and Burn 1994). Behavioral features include faster wingbeat and extreme gregariousness. Most agree that sight identification of out-of-range

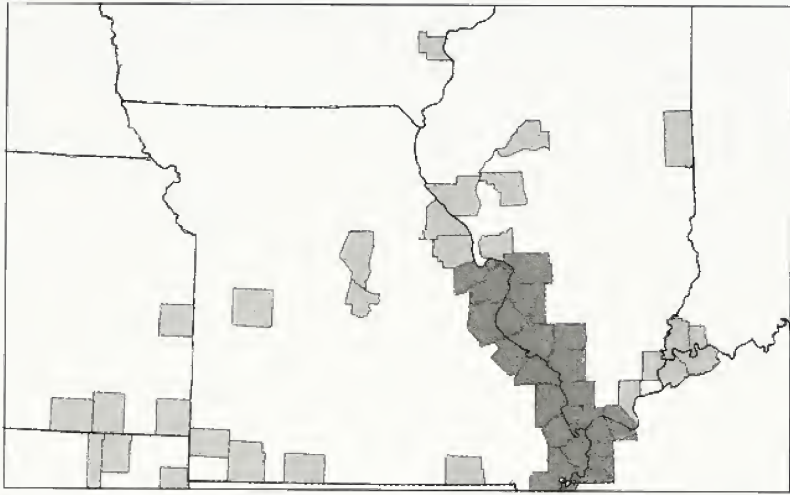


Figure 1. Northward expansion of Fish Crow along Mississippi River.

Fish Crows is very difficult if not impossible.

It is often stated that the double noted nasal ca-hah, cah-ah, ca-ha, or ah-oh with lower second note is necessary for identification; however, the single first syllable is given more frequently. A more harsh nasal call often given on breeding grounds is variously described as car, ark, caalk, or cahrr. Inexperienced observers may have difficulty distinguishing the latter call with the caaw, caaw, caaw call of young American Crows (McKenzie 1995). The (over) generalization that Fish Crows sound like young American Crows (even year-old birds), was in part responsible for the wavering of many Records Committee members, all of whom lacked recent day-to-day experience with calls of the Fish Crows.

Another frustration with these records is the inability to find these birds repetitively. Were they simply overmigrants that showed up for only a few years or are they so remote in the Mississippi River bottoms that we do not have access to them. Fish Crows are often found near heron rookeries. For several years, I had every intention of going to Louisa County every day in April to look for them. Flooding often made access impossible without a boat. One year Jim Fuller and I got into the island-like Big Timber below Kilpeck's Landing (where McKay saw the birds), but the time we spent could hardly be an adequate sampling. Extensive coverage by boat and on land in dry years would be needed to "prove" that Fish Crows are not present, and a good recording is needed to confirm their presence.

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Birding Ida and Sac Counties

Peter Ernzen

Birdwatching in Ida and Sac counties can be both challenging and rewarding. The two counties share a distinctive rural atmosphere. I wrote this article while I was birdwatching. Most of my time is spent in Ida Grove; therefore, the initial focus is on Ida County. One constant in Ida and Sac counties is the importance of state Highway 175. All areas mentioned are easily accessed from this state highway.

IDA COUNTY

Ida County is the smallest county in Iowa and has a distinctive rural character. The two landforms comprising Ida County are the Northwest Iowa Plains and Southern Iowa Drift Plain. Rolling hills and well-drained soil types mark both landforms. In the extreme northwest part of the county is the Little Sioux River. The Maple River runs from the northeast near the town of Galva through Ida Grove and Battle Creek before exiting the county.

Historically, there are few birding records for Ida County. The exception is a Swallow-tailed Kite, which is on display at the Calhoun County Historical Museum in Rockwell City. Locally, several bird specimens are on display at the Ida County Historical Museum in Ida Grove, including a Burrowing Owl.

The easiest way to bird Ida County is to travel Highway 175 from east to west. The highway enters eastern Ida County near the town of Arthur. The drainage ditches on the north side of the highway between Arthur and Ida Grove can be wet in the spring and produc-

tive for shorebirds. In addition to the regular shorebird species, Western Sandpiper and Wilson's Phalarope have been recorded.

On the west side of Ida Grove is the 252-acre **Moorehead Pioneer Park** (Figure 1), which is named for the first permanent settler of the county. The park is owned and maintained by the Ida County Conservation Board. An extensive article about Moorehead Park was published in *Iowa Bird Life* in 1994 (Ernzen 1994). Historically, Ida County was virtually treeless. This remains true today with roughly 500 acres that are treed. Approximately half of the timber exists in and around Moorehead Park. The park has an extensive trail system and a brochure showing all the trails may be picked up at the Ida County Conservation Board headquarters near the entrance to the park.

Because of the limited acres of timber in Ida County, Moorehead Park is a classical passerine trap. Both spring and fall migrations are productive in terms of species and numbers of birds. Spring migration typically starts at the beginning of May and lasts until early June. Warbler migration can be phenomenal and involve species that are not typically thought of as occurring in western Iowa. Because of the lack of habitat, birds do not typically linger for more than a couple of days. Blackburnian Warblers are often found in the oak trees above the railroad depot on the west side of the park. Black-poll, Black and White, and Wilson's warblers and American Redstart are common in migration. In recent years, both Blue-winged and Golden-winged warblers have been seen annually. Large numbers of Mourning and Canada warblers can be found throughout the woods late in spring migration. Southern and eastern species that have been recorded at least one time include Yellow-throated, Pine, Worm-eating, Prothonotary, Kentucky, Connecticut, and Hooded warblers and Louisiana Waterthrush.

Other rare passerine species that have been recorded in spring in Moorehead Park include White-eyed Vireo, Summer Tanager, and Lazuli Bunting. Large numbers of common migrants are sometimes concentrated in the park, with 200 Swainson's Thrushes present in the spring of 1996.

Summer birds of the park are regular Iowa species. Common nesting birds include Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Baltimore Oriole, Gray



*Wilson's Warbler
photographed in Moorehead
Park and provided courtesy of
Don Poggensee.*

Catbird, Brown Thrasher, and Indigo Bunting. As the timber has matured it has attracted species not previously present. Red-eyed Vireo, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Towhee, and Wood Thrush have nested in the park in the last three years.

The 12-acre spring-fed Lake Moorehead attracts many goose, duck, gull, grebe, loon, and heron species to the park. Many of the more common species of waterfowl have made appearances at this lake. The best birds have included White-winged Scoter, Common Loon, Black-crowned Night Heron, and Cattle Egret. Ospreys often can be seen hanging out in the spring and fall.

Late fall, winter, and early spring are great times to see sparrows. All common sparrow species with the exception of Nelson's Sharp-tailed and Le Conte's have been seen in Moorehead Park. However, Nelson's, Le Conte's, and Henslow's sparrows have been recorded in other parts of the county. Late October/early November is usually a good time to find Spotted Towhees. Winter birding can be slow. However, Northern Saw-whet and Long-eared owls have both occurred in the Scotch pines near the depot and on the east side of the lake near the comfort station.

Continuing west on Highway 175 to the town of Battle Creek, turn left on County Road L51. Drive south for 2.5 miles to **Crawford Creek Park**. The 260-acre park of grassland contains a 62-acre lake. This park is geared more toward camping and fishing. In spring and fall, however, large numbers of waterfowl can be found. Western Grebe and Common Loon have been recorded here. On the way to the park, there are large grassy areas. Quite often you may observe Bobolink, Western Meadowlark, Vesper Sparrow, an occasional Loggerhead Shrike, and, rarely, a Blue Grosbeak.

A drive through the county farmland will produce many common grassland birds. Most are sparrow-related species with the occasional Common Yellowthroat in wet areas. Other species reported from Ida County include Vermilion Flycatcher (Rector 1998b) and Pine Grosbeak (Rector 1998a).

SAC COUNTY

Sac County is a geologically diverse area. The county is composed of three landforms: the Northwest Iowa Plains, the Southern Iowa Drift Plain, and the Des Moines Lobe. Both the Northwest Iowa Plain and the Southern Iowa Drift Plain are characterized by hilly well-drained soils. To the east of these areas is the Des Moines Lobe. The Des Moines Lobe is a poorly drained flat area marked by marshes

and shallow lakes. The melting Wisconsin glacial ices created these lakes some 13,000 years ago. Tomahawk Marsh and Black Hawk Lake in southeast Sac County are good representations of glacial lakes in the Des Moines Lobe area. The Raccoon River flows through eastern Sac County and eventually into Red Rock Reservoir, which is southeast of Des Moines. The Boyer River flows west, entering the Missouri River in southern Iowa.

The best place to start birding in Sac County is the town of Lake View, which is located in southern Sac County on Highway 175 (Figure 2). The town borders **Black Hawk Lake** on its western shore in **Black Hawk State Park**. This shallow lake attracts many of the common duck, goose, loon, grebe, gull, and tern species. Spring and fall migrations are the best times to see large numbers of common species as well as some Iowa rarities.

Species that have been recorded at Blackhawk Lake at least one time include Long-tailed Duck, White-winged Scoter, Pacific Loon, and Red-necked and Western grebes. A number of rare gull species have been observed as well. These include a spring record for Little Gull, a summer record for Laughing Gull, and fall and winter records for Long-tailed Jaeger (Ernzen 1996a), Sabine's (Petersen 1996), Glaucous, and Thayer's gulls.

Black Hawk Lake is relatively small and can be easily viewed with a pair of good binoculars. Most of the lake is surrounded by housing, with the exception of three pieces of state-owned land on the south side of the lake. A road, street, or county highway can be used to travel around the lake. In the fall, large concentrations of waterfowl can be observed from the southeast corner of the lake. You may pull off the road or use the boat ramp located on the south side of the lake in Black Hawk State Park. Make sure you use a scope to look at the many ducks. Western Grebes are often tucked in with the large raft of ducks. Sabine's Gull has often been found here as well. Large fish concentrations will always support large numbers of American White Pelicans, Double-crested Cormorants, and loons.

Black Hawk Lake was dredged in 1995 and 1996. A spoils area was located on the southeast corner of the lake. Over the next two years, this area attracted large numbers of shorebirds and gulls. These included Hudsonian and Marbled godwits, Long-billed Curlew (Ernzen 1996b), American Avocet, Snowy Plover, and Sabine's and Laughing gulls. Unfortunately the area has since been filled in and farmed.

On the south side of the town of Lake View is the **Stubb Severson self-guided nature trail**. This area borders **Provost Slough** on the south side of Black Hawk Lake. The area is covered in woody vegetation and has an extensive trail system.



*Black-necked Stilt
photographed at Crescent
Lake National Wildlife
Refuge, Nebraska and
provided courtesy of Don
Poggensee.*

Nesting American Redstart, Blue-gray Gnat-catcher, and Red-eyed and Yellow-throated vireos have been observed here. Many species of wood warblers have been seen during both spring and fall migration. These include Golden-winged, Mourning, Canada, Connecticut, and Black-throated Blue warblers.

Returning to the town of Lake View, travel 2.1 miles south on County Road M68. To the west is the entrance to the **Hallett's Material pits** and to the east is the entrance to **Black Hawk Marsh**. At the material pit, large numbers of geese and gulls gather in spring and fall. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources manages the 975-acre Black Hawk Marsh area. It is flooded in spring, drained in the summer, and reflooded in the fall. This creates interesting habitat for observation of Osprey, American White Pelicans, and large numbers of common waterfowl. As the area is

drained, mudflats become visible and in late spring and early fall shorebird species such as American Avocet and Black-bellied Plover use the area.

Returning to County Road M68, drive north through the town of Lake View. Approximately three miles north of Lake View is **Tomahawk Marsh**. This is a typical glacier marsh consisting of two sections, one on each side of the road. The west section is a large shallow marsh surrounded by upland prairie. The east section contains two large shallow marshes and a number of small, constructed potholes. An old railroad bed can be used as a walking path with two small parking lots on each end of the path.

County Road M68 borders the eastern shore of the western section of Tomahawk Marsh. From the roadside, you can view a large section of habitat. The following birds have been observed from the road: Red-necked, Eared, and Horned grebes, Great-tailed Grackle, Yellow-headed Blackbird, and Virginia Rail. Many common waterfowl species have been observed here as well, including Northern

Pintails, Bufflehead, and Hooded Mergansers. Common shorebird species include Willet, both species of Dowitcher, and Wilson's Phalarope. Rare breeding birds include Common Moorhen, Hooded Merganser, and Gadwall. Other species that have been recorded from this side of the marsh include Long-tailed Jaeger, Black-bellied Whistling Duck, and Sandhill Crane.

County Road M68 borders the western shore of the largest body of water of the eastern section of Tomahawk Marsh. This is the largest and deepest marsh of the complex. This body of water is open and not as filled with reeds as the rest of the marsh; consequently, it attracts more species of waterfowl during migration. As the water recedes, there often are mudflats, which attract a great variety of

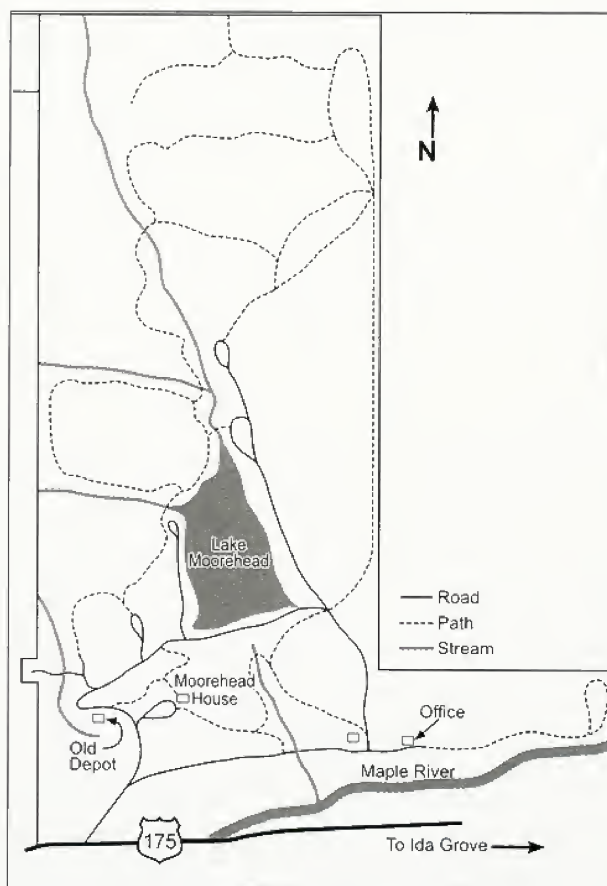


Figure 1. Moorehead Pioneer Park and Lake Moorehead in Ida County.

shorebirds. These include both Hudsonian and Marbled godwits, Long and Short-billed dowitchers, Greater and Lesser yellowlegs, Red-necked Phalarope, and many more common species.

The old railroad bed running through the eastern section of Tomahawk Marsh is a good passerine trap because it is lined with trees and shrubs. Many species of warblers, vireos, and thrushes have been seen here. Further along the path, the trees are sparse and are bordered by shrubs. This provides nesting habitat for Willow Flycatchers. The marshes are bordered by prairie grasses, which provide nesting habitat for many sparrow species. The border areas induce Common Yellowthroats to breed in large numbers as well as attracting migrants such as Sora and Virginia rails and Le Conte's and Nelson's Sharp-tailed sparrows.

Just south of Tomahawk Marsh on County Road M68 is a large flat cornfield on the east side and a flat pasture on the west side. In late spring and early summer, these areas often become flooded with heavy rains. The poor drainage provides excellent mudflat habitat. Several outstanding species have been found here including American Pipit, Hudsonian and Marbled godwits, Wilson's Phalarope, and Buff-breasted Sandpiper.

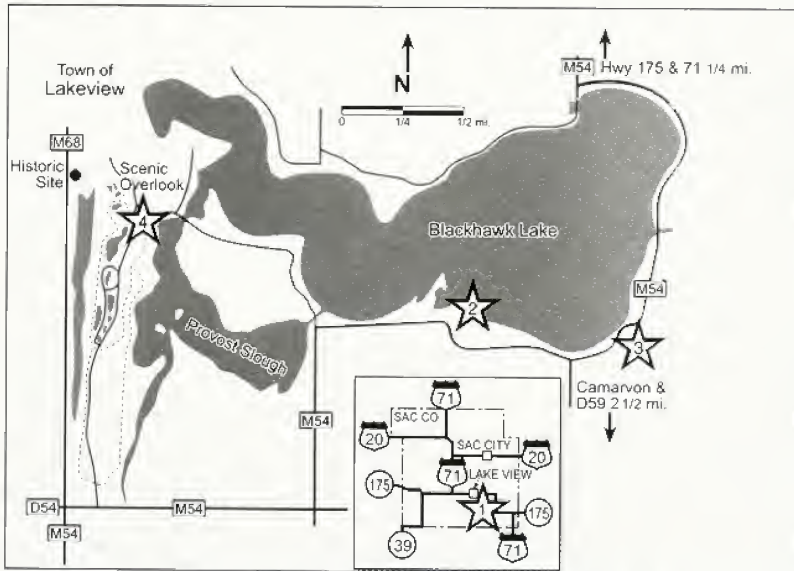


Figure 2. Black Hawk State Park (1) and Black Hawk Lake. Birding areas around Black Hawk Lake include (2) Black Hawk Lake boat Ramp, (3) Black Hawk Lake sports area, and (4) Stubb Severson self-guided nature trail.

Other areas to bird in Sac County include **Kiowa Marsh** in the north-central part of the county and the area south of the **town of Wall Lake**. Kiowa Marsh is located two miles east of the town of Early on County Road D27. The area consists of 75% prairie upland and 25% marsh habitats. Many waterfowl species can be observed here in the spring. Large concentrations of Ring-billed Gulls have been seen here. This also is a good spot to find Sedge Wrens.

Directions to **the town of Wall Lake**: take Highway 175 three miles west of Lake View and turn south on Highway 36 for another three miles. Travel south through town past Andy Williams's birth-place and across the railroad tracks. South and east of town is a flat, poorly drained field. This field frequently floods in the spring. As the water recedes, large mudflats attract significant numbers of shorebirds. Species seen here include Hudsonian Godwit, Black-bellied and American Golden plovers, Dunlin, and Red-necked Phalarope.

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Book Review

James J. Dinsmore

The Nebraska Breeding Bird Atlas 1984–1989 by Wayne J. Mollhoff., *Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Lincoln*, 2001, 233 pp., softbound, \$29

With this publication, Nebraska joins South Dakota, Kansas, Missouri, and Iowa as midwestern states with published breeding bird atlases. Nebraska started its project before any of the others but because of limited funding, it took more than a decade to publish the results. The Nebraska project involved surveying 3 x 3-mile blocks scattered throughout the state. The blocks were located in a variety of habitats and were placed to sample where the birds were located rather than the more systematic placement that has been used in most states. Because of the scarcity of observers, especially in western Nebraska, the project covered six rather than the more usual five years. About two dozen workers compiled more than half of the observations, and one person was responsible for 143 of the blocks! More than 5,800 hours were spent surveying the 443 blocks, an average of 13 hours per block. An average of 48 species was found per block with extremes of 12 and 92 species reported.

Brief chapters describe the physical environment of Nebraska, the methods used, and the results. Species accounts for 191 species comprise most of the book. Each species is covered on a single page with a county outline map of Nebraska showing blocks where that species was located in one of four status categories (observed, possible, probable, confirmed). Accompanying text covers range (worldwide and in Nebraska), status, habitat, nests, and phenology. One appendix lists another 38 species that were not confirmed as nesting during the atlas project but that have been reliably reported as nesting in Nebraska. Another appendix lists the location of each block (arranged by county) along with the number of species reported by status category in each block.

For most users, the maps will get the most use. They are clear and the symbols are generally sharp enough for the reader to pick out quickly. As I scanned the maps, a few things caught my attention.

The importance of the Sandhills region was apparent with its numerous records of nesting waterfowl and other wetland/grassland species. The sharp hiatus between the present nesting range of several species that formerly nested in Iowa (e.g., Sharp-tailed Grouse, Greater Prairie-Chicken, Burrowing Owl) and the Iowa border also stood out. I was surprised to see how far west the Northern Cardinal was found and noticed that isolated populations of several woodland species (e.g., Wood Thrush, Ovenbird, American Redstart) were found along the Niobrara River in north-central Nebraska, west of their more expected range. Also, several species that are fairly widespread in Iowa were largely confined to the Missouri River valley in Nebraska (e.g., Whip-poor-will, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Yellow-throated Vireo, Tufted Titmouse, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher).

One thing I did miss was more analysis of the data. Numerous possibilities exist but some of the more obvious summaries that are not provided include which species were found on the most blocks (Mourning Dove [440], Barn Swallow [433], Eastern Kingbird [424], Western Meadowlark [424], Red-winged Blackbird [422]), which species were confirmed nesting most times (Barn Swallow [342], American Robin [298]), and which species were confirmed the fewest times (22 confirmed only once, nine only twice). Given Nebraska's location midway across the Great Plains, I would have preferred some analysis of the species pairs that straddle that region (e.g., Eastern and Western meadowlarks, Indigo and Lazuli buntings, Rose-breasted and Black-headed grosbeaks, Eastern and Spotted towhees). A careful reader can derive much information from the maps but I would have preferred reading the author's interpretation of the ranges of some of these species.

That said, this book is a terrific bargain. It contains a great amount of data and, given the scarcity of observers, represents a tremendous effort to complete. Despite a few shortcomings, the book provides a solid data base for future Nebraska workers and a resource that nicely complements the recently published book on Nebraska's avifauna.

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Fifty Years Ago in Iowa Bird Life

James J. Dinsmore

An obituary of Charles Reuben Keyes was the featured article in the first issue of Iowa Bird Life for 1952. One of the more distinguished early ornithologists in Iowa, Keyes was a charter member of both the Iowa Ornithologists' Union and the earlier, short-lived Iowa Ornithological Association. He had helped found the latter organization and served as its second president. Keyes was also well known for his archaeological work in Iowa.

A total of 65 species were found on 20 counts on the 1951 Christmas Bird Count, fewer than the totals on several of the higher counts in recent years. Easily the most interesting find was a Black-billed Magpie at Sioux City. In contrast to recent years, no Canada Geese were reported. Only three species (Downy Woodpecker, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee) were found on all of the counts.

Among the short notes, one by Fred Kent discusses the nesting activities of Marsh Wrens at Swan Lake in Johnson County in 1951. In that year, the wrens seemed to nest in July and August, somewhat later than normal.

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Institutions may subscribe to *Iowa Bird Life* for \$20 per year. Individuals may join the Iowa Ornithologists' Union according to the following membership classes: Regular (\$20); Regular as spouse or minor child of another Regular member (without publications) (\$4 first additional family member, \$2 each additional family member); Contributing (\$20 plus any additional tax-deductible contribution to the IOU); and Life (\$500 as single payment or \$125 for each of four years). Members also will receive the quarterly *IOU News* and are eligible to vote and hold office in the Union. Send subscriptions, membership payments, or address changes to David C. Edwards, 2308 State Avenue, Ames, IA 50014 (dcejce@qwest.net).

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other materials relating to birds and bird finding in Iowa should be sent to the editor. Accepted manuscripts will generally be published promptly, depending on space available, with the following absolute deadlines: 15 November for the winter issue, 15 February for the spring issue, 15 May for the summer issue, and 15 July for the fall issue. Most manuscripts will be refereed. Manuscripts may be submitted on computer disk (preferably Microsoft Word or WordPerfect for PCs) or sent as an e-mail attachment to the editor. Please submit one printed copy of the manuscript if sending a disk. Alternatively, material can be typed double-spaced or hand printed in ink on 8 1/2 by 11 inch paper. Authors should pattern their style after a current issue of the journal. If you want more detailed guidelines or advice regarding the appropriateness of your topic for *Iowa Bird Life*, contact the editor.

MATERIALS AVAILABLE

Back issues of *Iowa Bird Life* are available. For an order form, send a self-addressed envelope to *Iowa Bird Life*, 2308 State Avenue, Ames, IA 50014 (dcejce@qwest.net).

Field Checklist of Iowa Birds, 1999 Edition: 5 for \$1.50, postpaid, and other IOU materials are available from Maridel Jackson, 410 S.W. Westview Drive, Ankeny, IA 50021 (mpwj@gateway.net). Also available at annual meetings.



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Spring 2002, 26-28 April, Ottumwa, IA

FIELD REPORTS

Anyone observing birds in Iowa is encouraged to report their findings on a quarterly basis to the field reports editors. Sample reporting and documentation forms suitable for duplication are available from the editor (send self-addressed stamped envelope to Kayleen A. Niyo, 25100 Sunset Lane, Evergreen, CO 80439, Kay@KayNiyo.com). An article describing the reporting process also is available.

Deadlines for receipt of field reports are as follows:

Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb) — 3 March (Robert I. Cecil, 1315 41st Street, Des Moines, IA 50311, wewarb@aol.com)

Spring (Mar, Apr, May) — 3 June (Matthew C. Kenne, 709 N. Phillips, Algona, IA 50511, meeckeckk@rconnect.com)

Summer (Jun, Jul) — 3 August (James J. Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames, IA 50014, oldcoot@iastate.edu)

Fall (Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov) — 3 December (Paul Hertzelt, 240 12th Street, S.E., Mason City, IA 51401-5836, phertzelt@rconnect.com)



CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Deadline for receipt of reports: 15 January. For forms and instructions, write Aaron Brees, Christmas Bird Count Editor, 509 S. West Street, Corydon, IA 50060 (abrees@hotmail.com)

IOWA BIRDLINE: (712) 364-2863 (pkernzen@pionet.net)

The birdline is a recorded summary of interesting recent bird sightings in Iowa. At the end of the report you can leave a message and report recent sightings. Be sure to give your name and phone number as well as the location of the bird and date seen. Call in as soon as possible after sighting a rare bird. Jim Fuller checks the reports daily and updates the recording on Monday, so make sure Sunday sightings are reported by Sunday night.

IOU WEBSITE: <http://www.iowabirds.org>

Ann Johnson, Webmaster (iowabirds@iowabirds.org)

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IOU News

Send items of interest for the newsletter to the editors, Paul Hertzel, 240 12th Street, S.E., Mason City, IA (phertzel@rconnect.com)

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Sightings of Nebraska birds, including those within the Nebraska portion of DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge, should be reported to Loren and Babs Padelford, 1405 Little John Road, Bellevue, NE 68005 (lpdlfrd@juno.com). Formats for reporting and documentation are the same as for Iowa. The Nebraska Bird Line, available 24 hours a day, is (402) 292-5325. Iowa birders are encouraged to report their Nebraska sightings to this number.

ADDRESS CHANGES

Please send address changes/corrections to David C. Edwards, 2308 State Avenue, Ames, IA 50014 (dcejce@qwest.net)



